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THIS DOCUMENT PROVIDES READING MATERIAL AT A LOW LEVEL OF READING ABILITY BUT ON SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO A SERVICEMAN, SUCH AS ARMY LIFE, THE HOME FOLKS, AND A TRIP TO WASHINGTON. EXERCISES BASED ON EVERY FEW PAGES OF THIS READER ARE PROVIDED IN "SERVICEMEN LEARN TO READ." (SM)

EDUCATION MANUAL B001

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Men in the Armed Forces

A Serviceman's Reader

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Men in the Armed Forces

A Serviceman's Reader

by

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UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703

The material presented herewith is for use as an aid in instruction in certain educational activities of the armed forces. The statements and opinions contained are those of the author.

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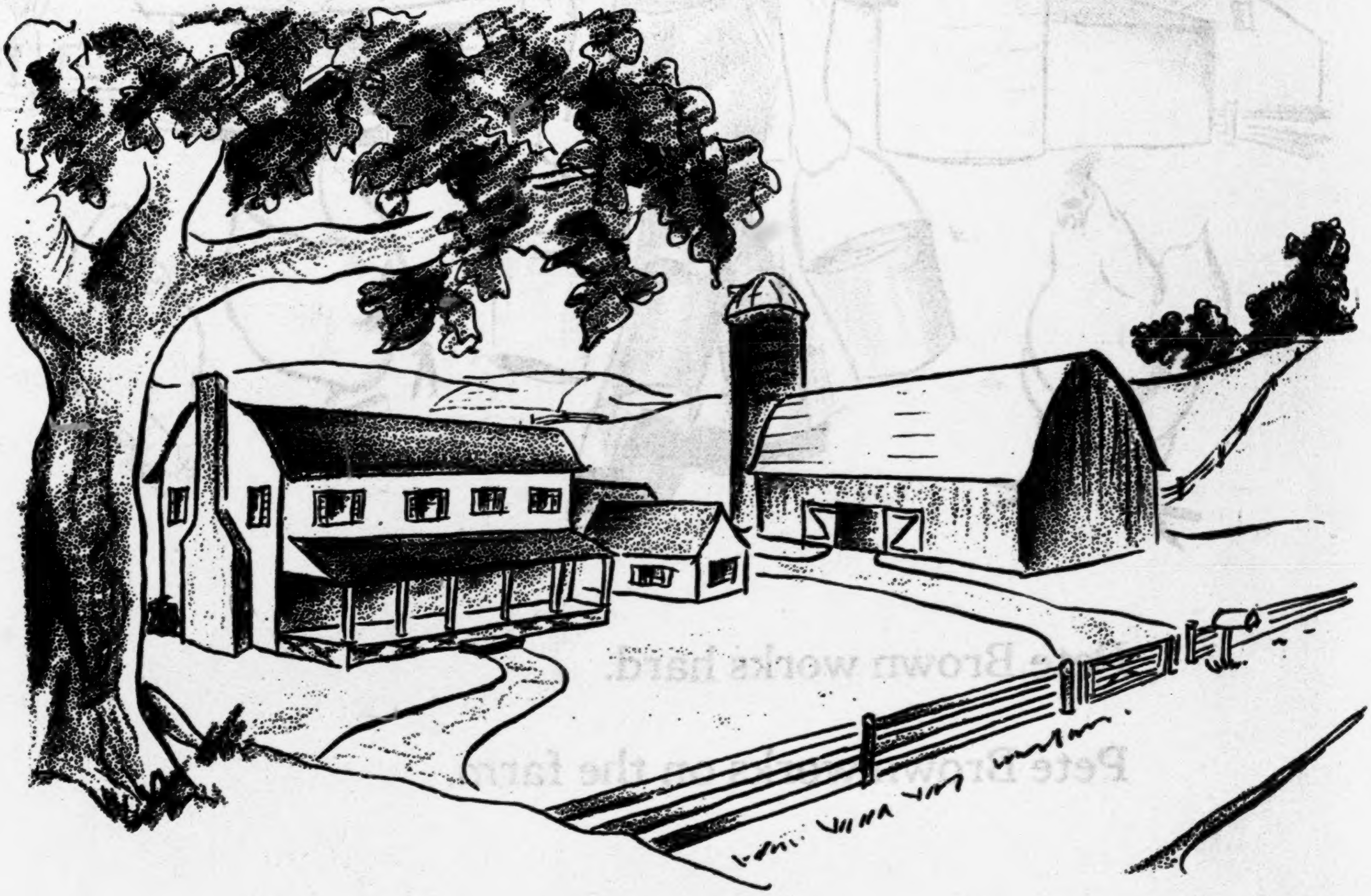
PART ONE

JOBS FOR PETE AND BOB

Chapter 1

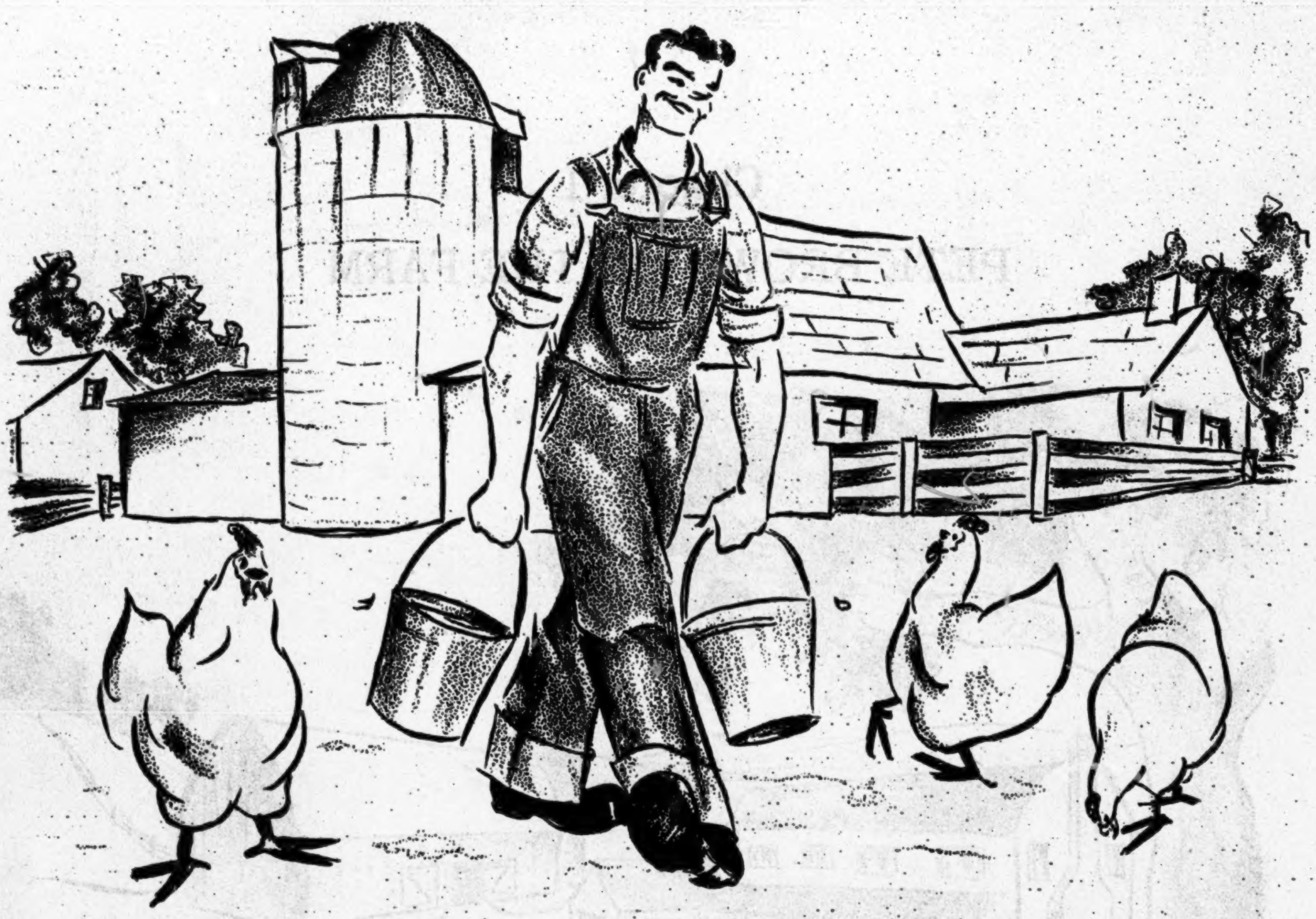
PETE BROWN ON THE FARM



Pete lives on this farm.

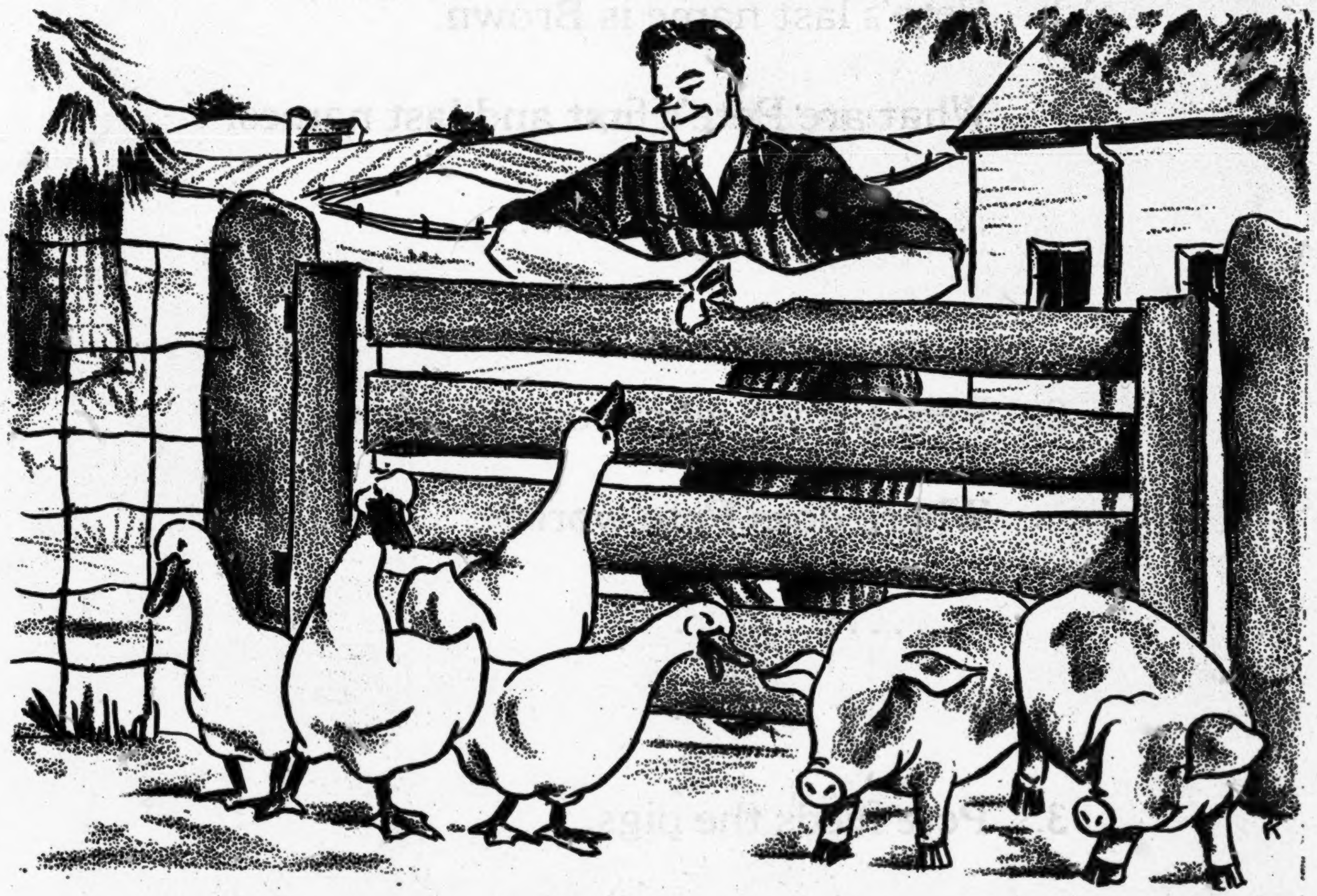
Here is Pete Brown.

Pete Brown is tall.



Pete Brown works hard.

Pete Brown works on the farm.



Pete lives on this farm.

Pete feeds the pigs.

He milks the cows.

He drives the horses.

1. Pete's last name is Brown.

   What are Pete's first and last names?

   ....

2. Pete Brown works on the farm.

   Where does Pete work?

   ....

3. Pete feeds the pigs.

   What does Pete feed?

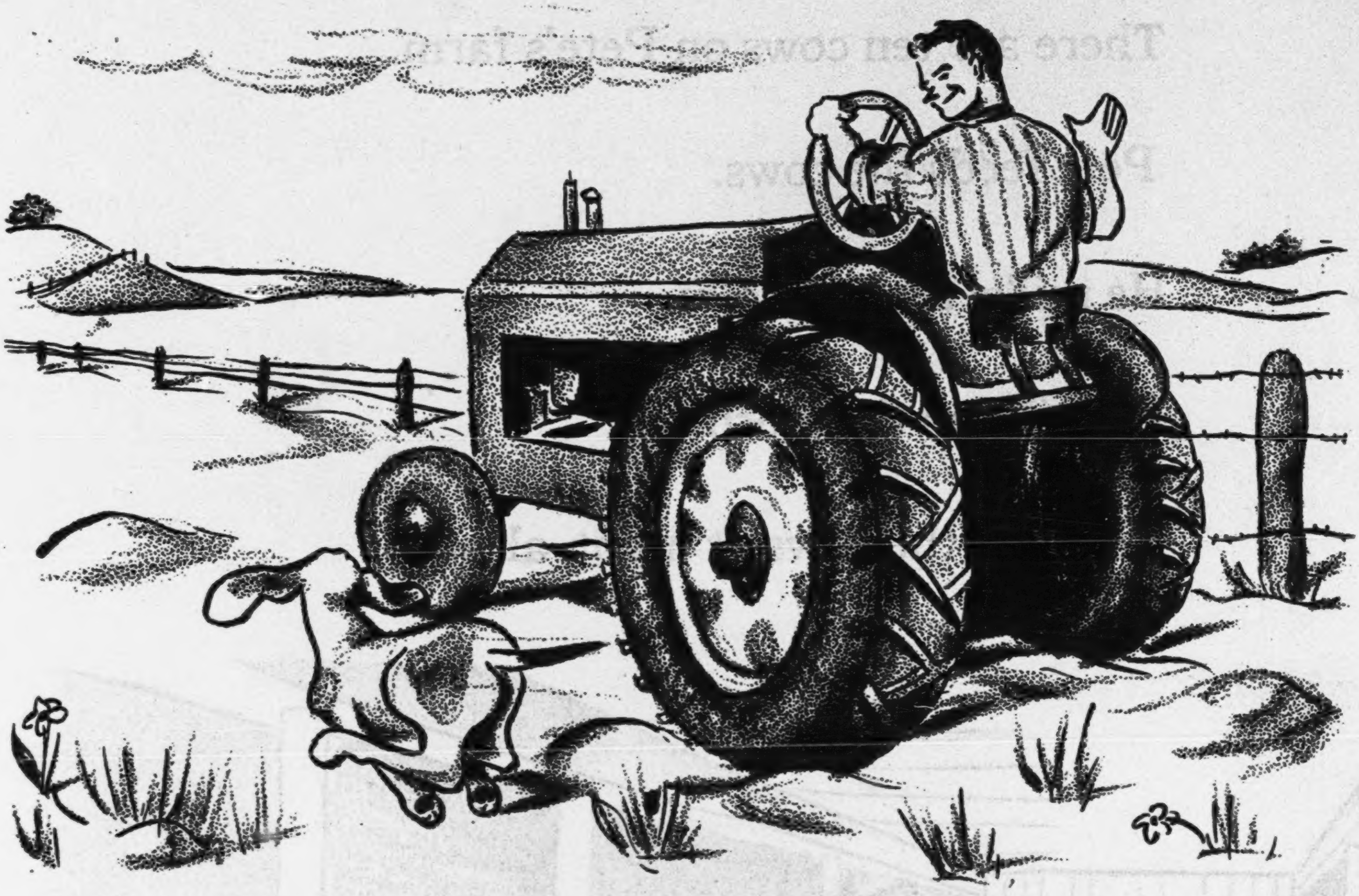
   ....

4. The chickens lay eggs.

   Pete gathers the eggs.

   What does Pete gather?

   ....



Pete works with this tractor.

Pete sits on the tractor.

He drives the tractor.

Pete plows the field with this tractor.

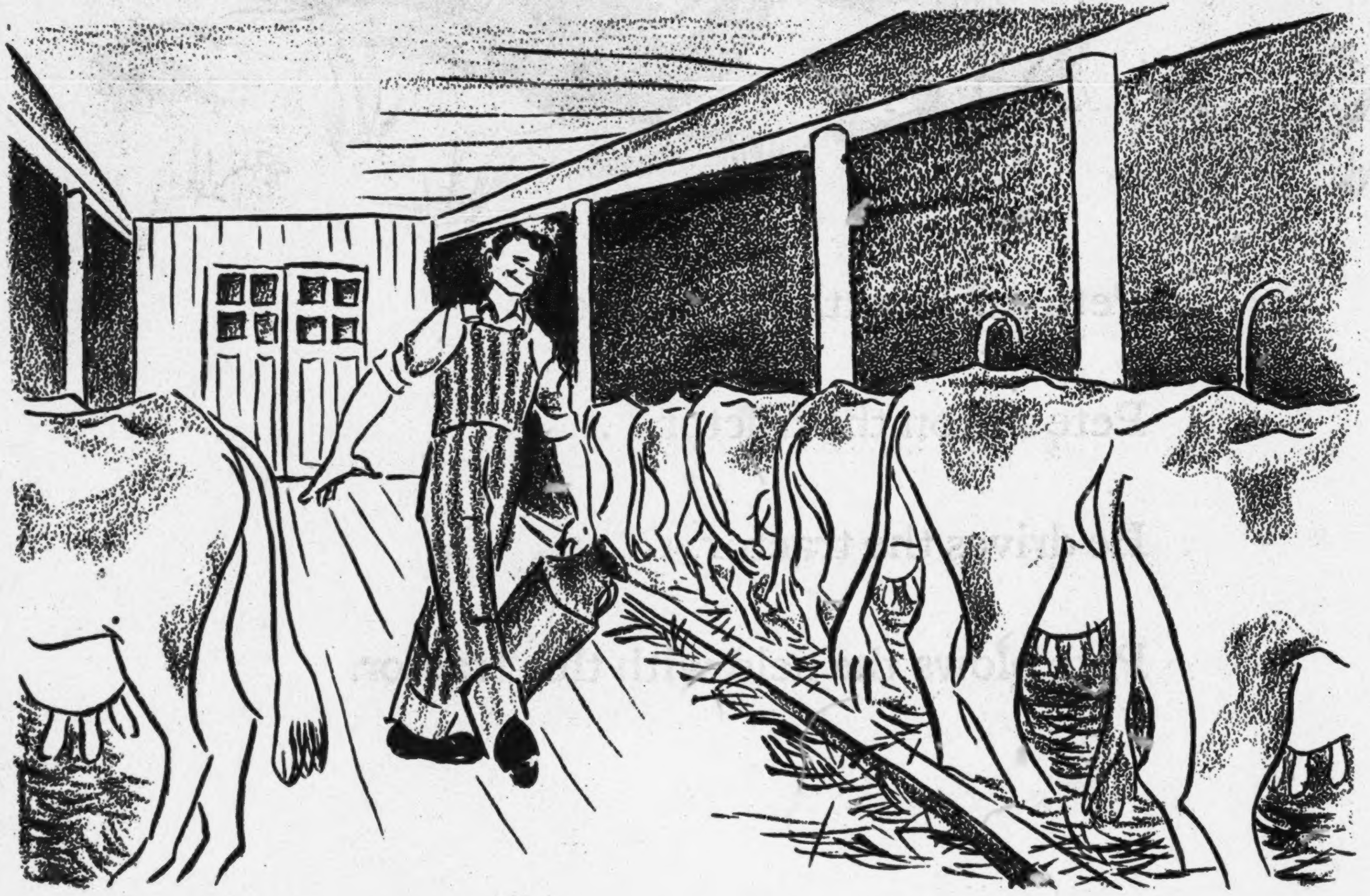
There are ten cows on Pete's farm.

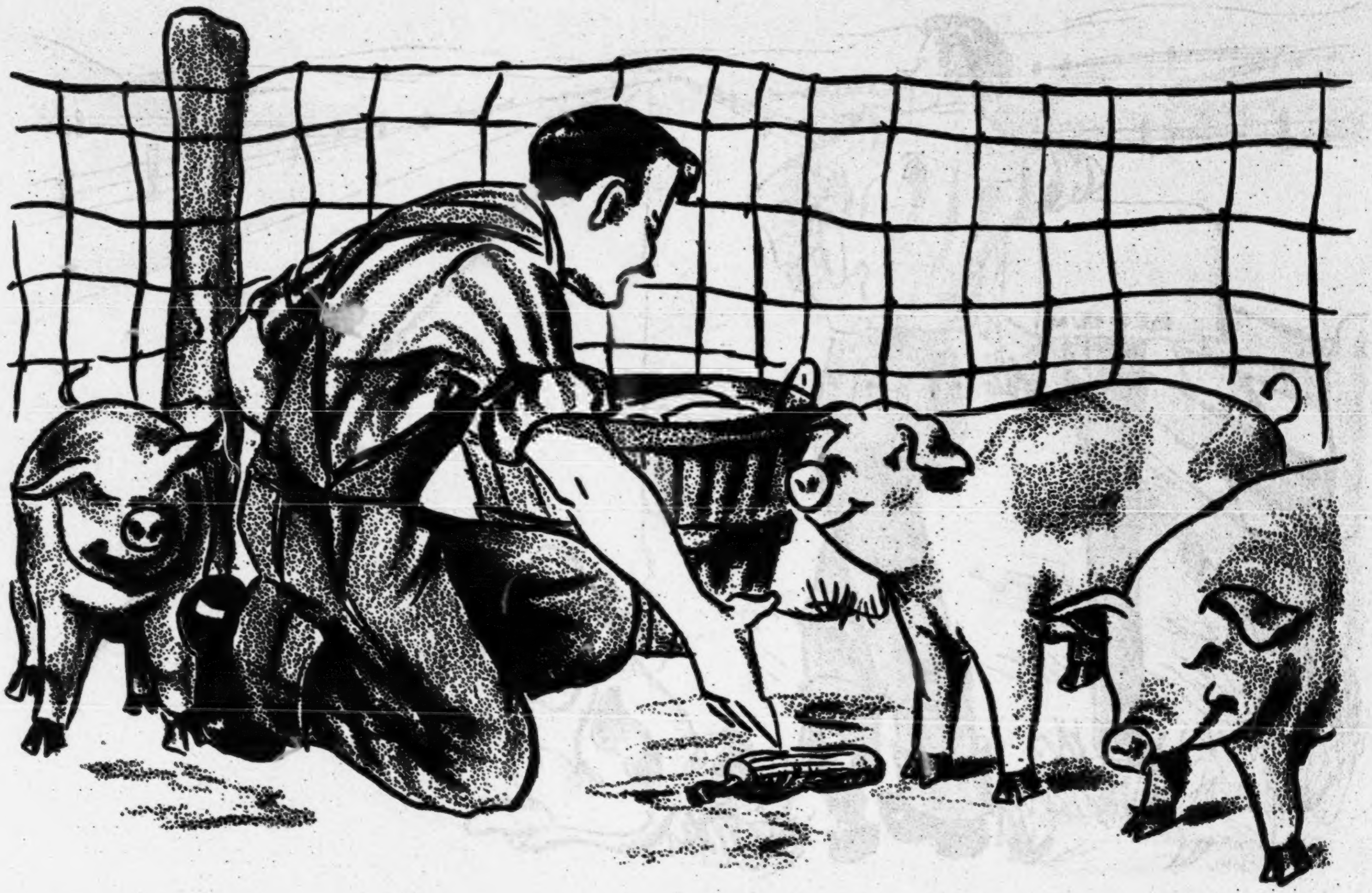
Pete feeds the cows.

He milks the ten cows.

He milks in the morning.

He milks the cows at night, also.





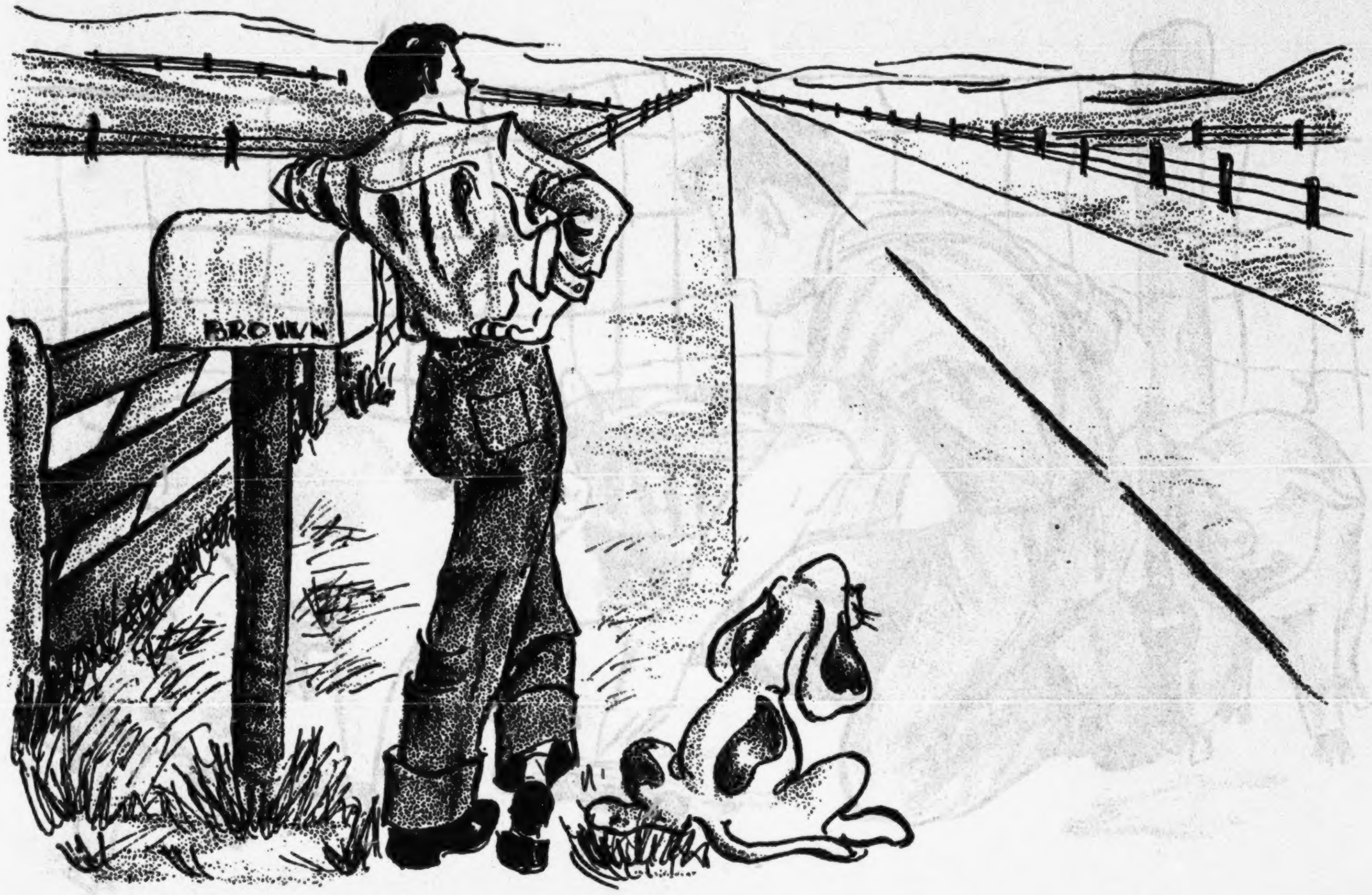
Pete's farm has many pigs.

The pigs eat corn.

Pete takes good care of the pigs.

Pete earns money.

He sells some of the pigs.



Pete works hard.

Pete gets tired of the farm.

Sometimes there is not much money.

Pete wants to go away.

He has never been away from home..

Pete works very hard on the farm.

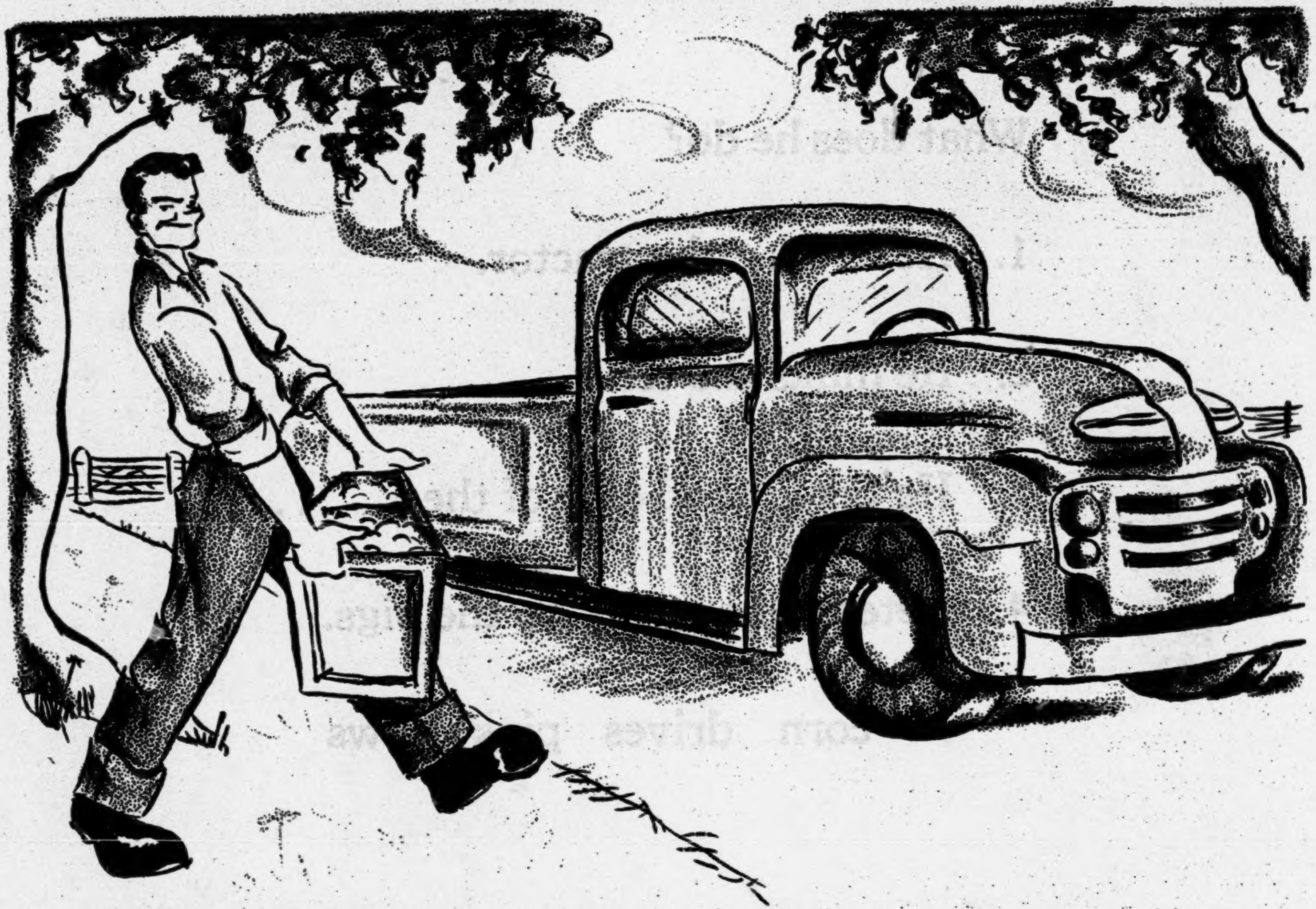
What does he do?

1. He........the tractor.
2. He milks the ten.........
3. He takes good care of the.........
4. Pete feeds........to the pigs.

corn drives pigs cows

Chapter 2

PETE GOES TO TOWN

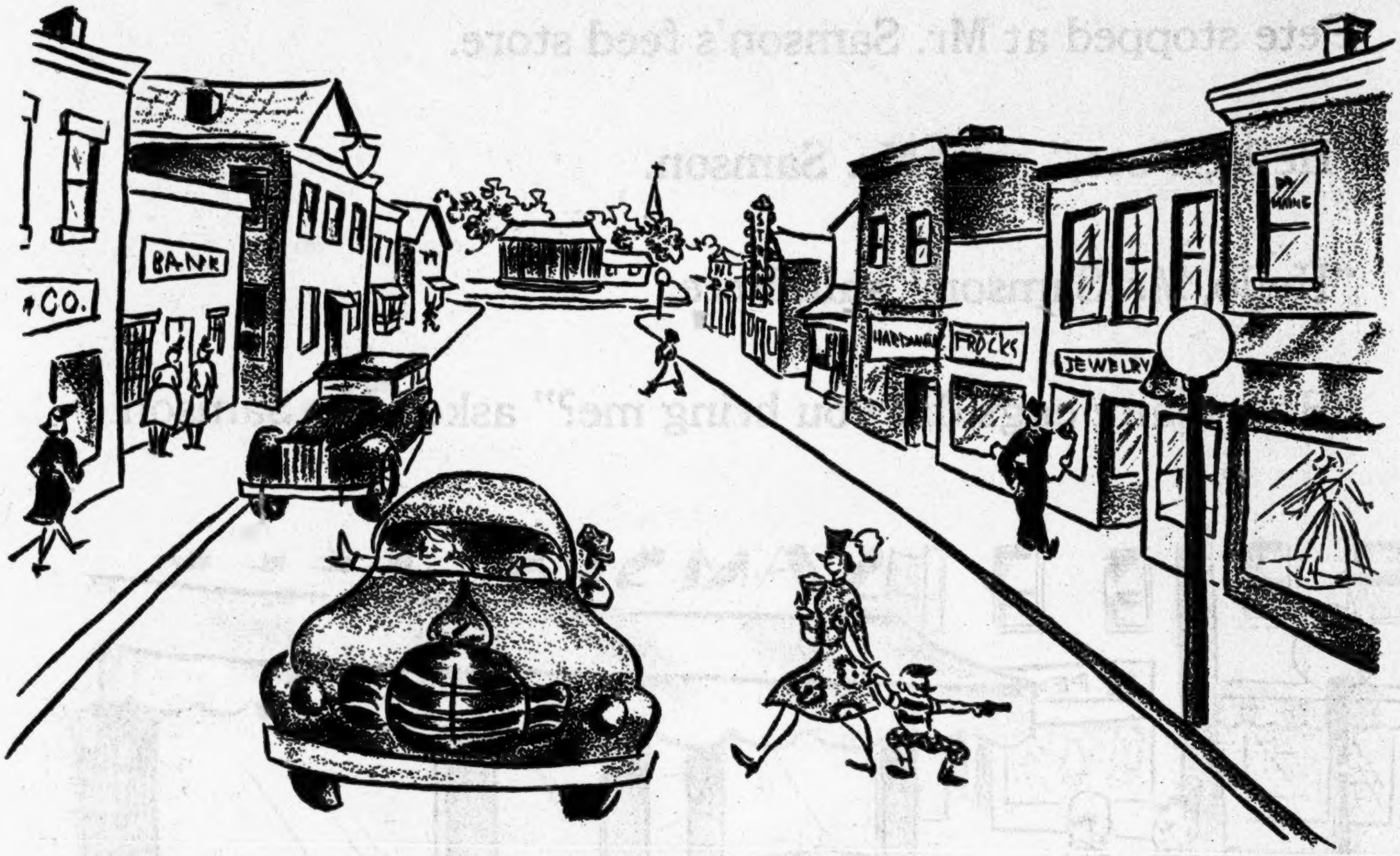


On Saturday Pete goes to town.

He drives this truck.

Sometimes he takes pigs to town.

Today he has eggs to sell.


CO.
BANK
HARDWARE
FROCKS
JEWELRY

This is Rivertown.

Rivertown is ten miles from Pete's farm.

The road is good.

Rivertown has many stores.

Pete is going to the feed store.

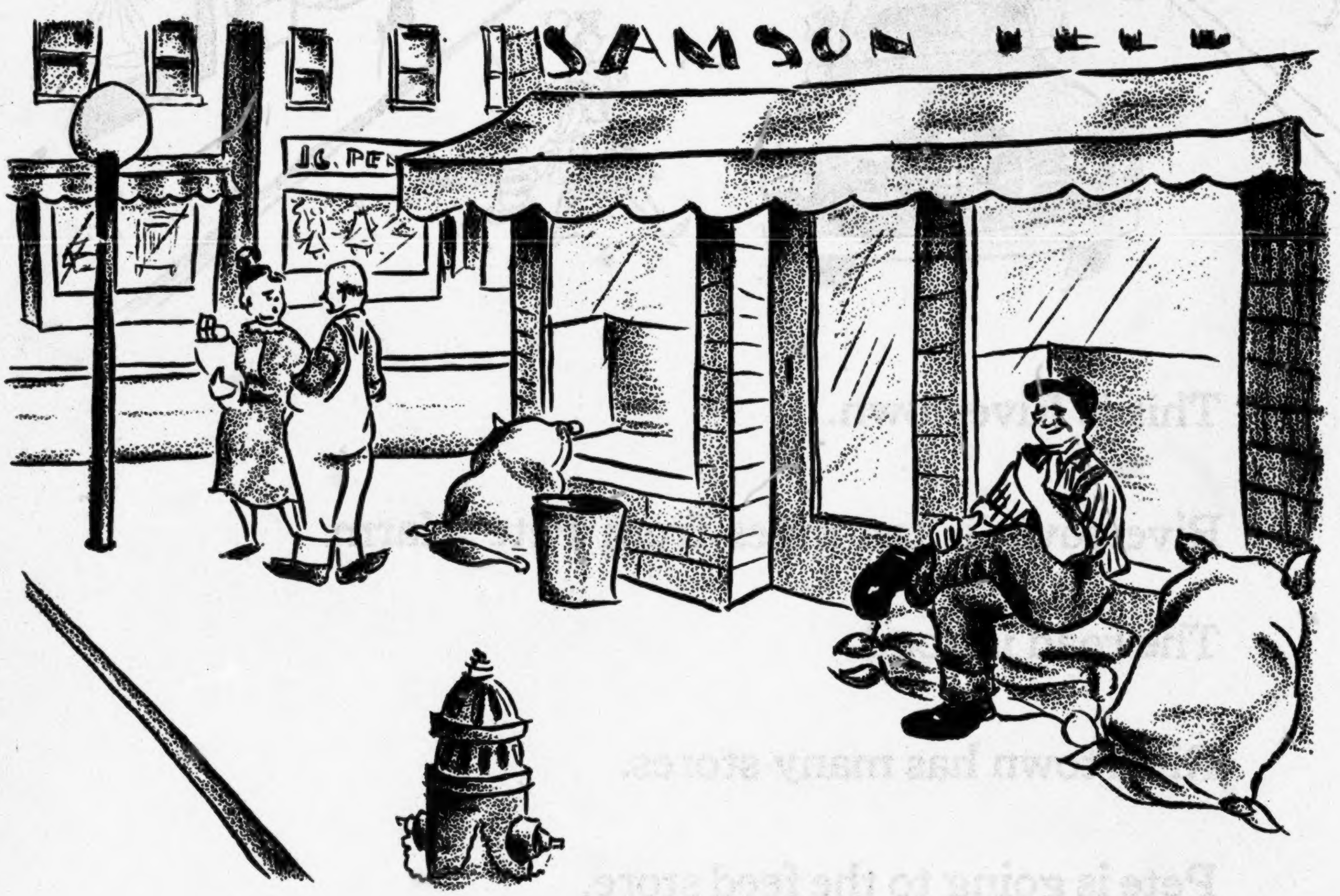
Mr. Samson works in the feed store.

Pete stopped at Mr. Samson's feed store.

"Hello, Pete," said Mr. Samson.

"Hello, Mr. Samson," said Pete.

"How many eggs did you bring me?" asked Mr. Samson.



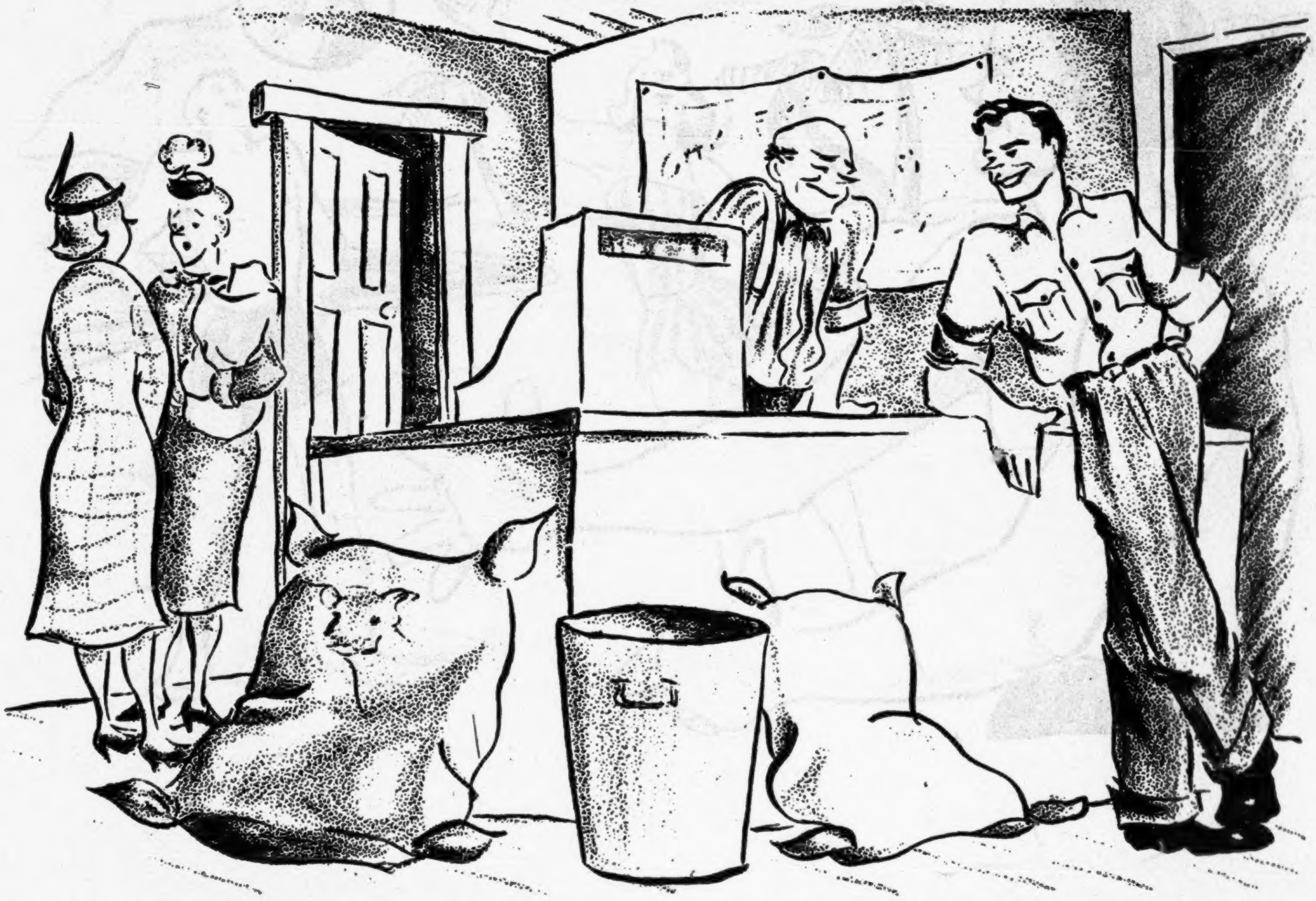
"Twenty-four dozen eggs today," said Pete.

"Eggs are forty cents a dozen today," said Mr. Samson.

Pete got nine dollars and sixty cents for his eggs.

Pete bought three bags of feed.

The feed cost Pete twelve dollars.

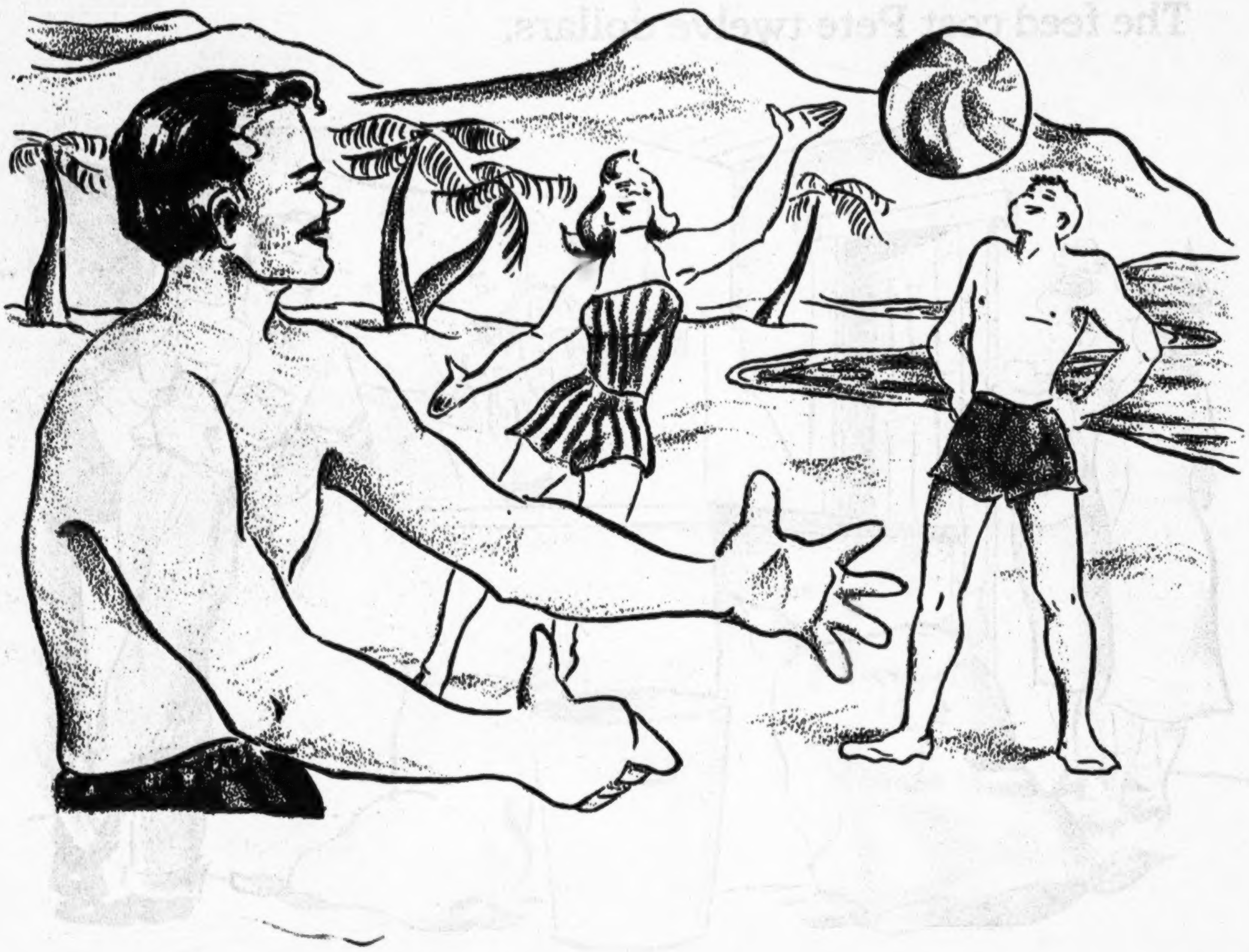


Mr. Samson has a son named Tim.

Pete knows Tim.

Tim is in the Army.

Tim is stationed in Hawaii.

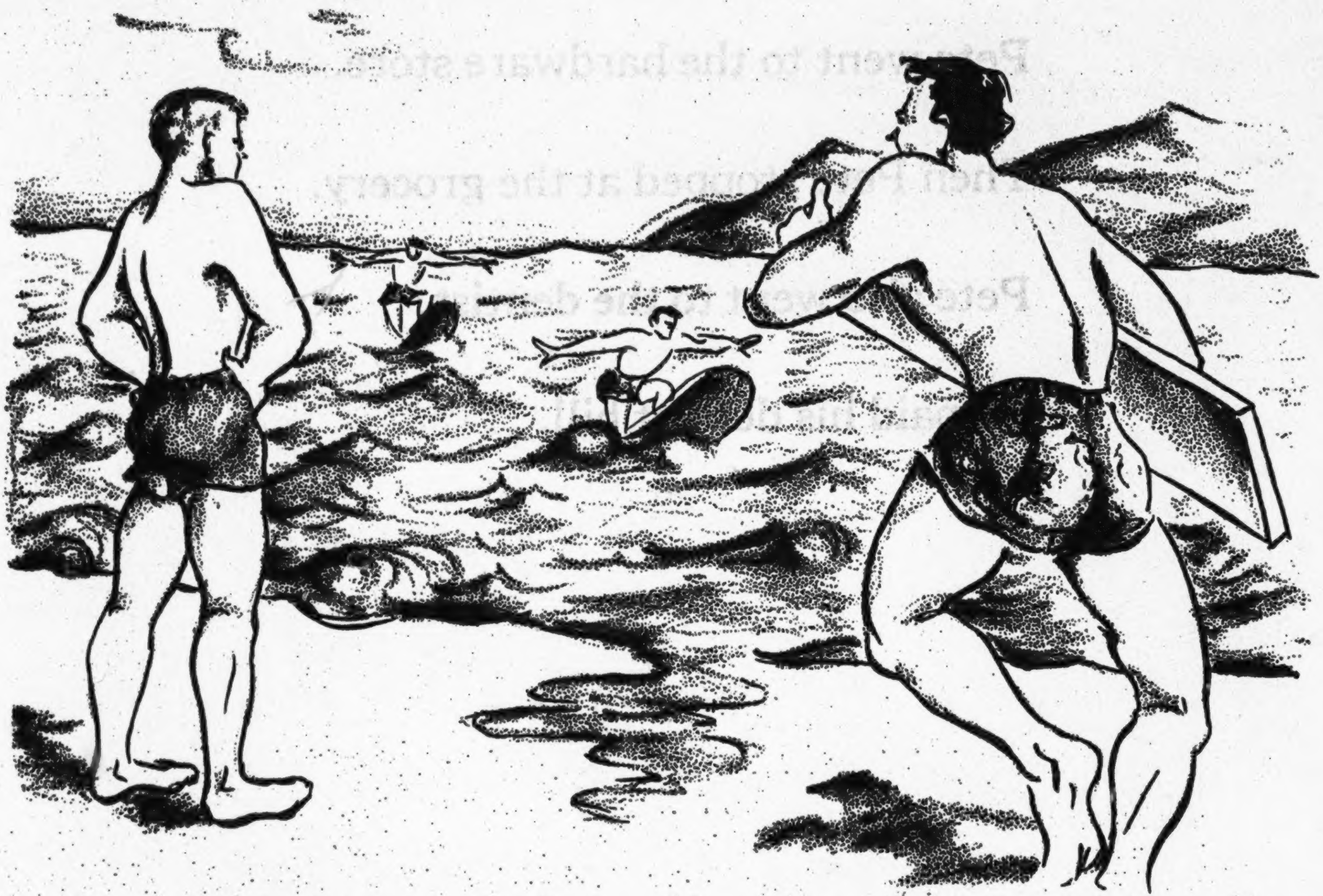


Tim writes to his father.

Mr. Samson writes to Tim.

Tim likes the Army.

Mr. Samson told Pete about Tim.



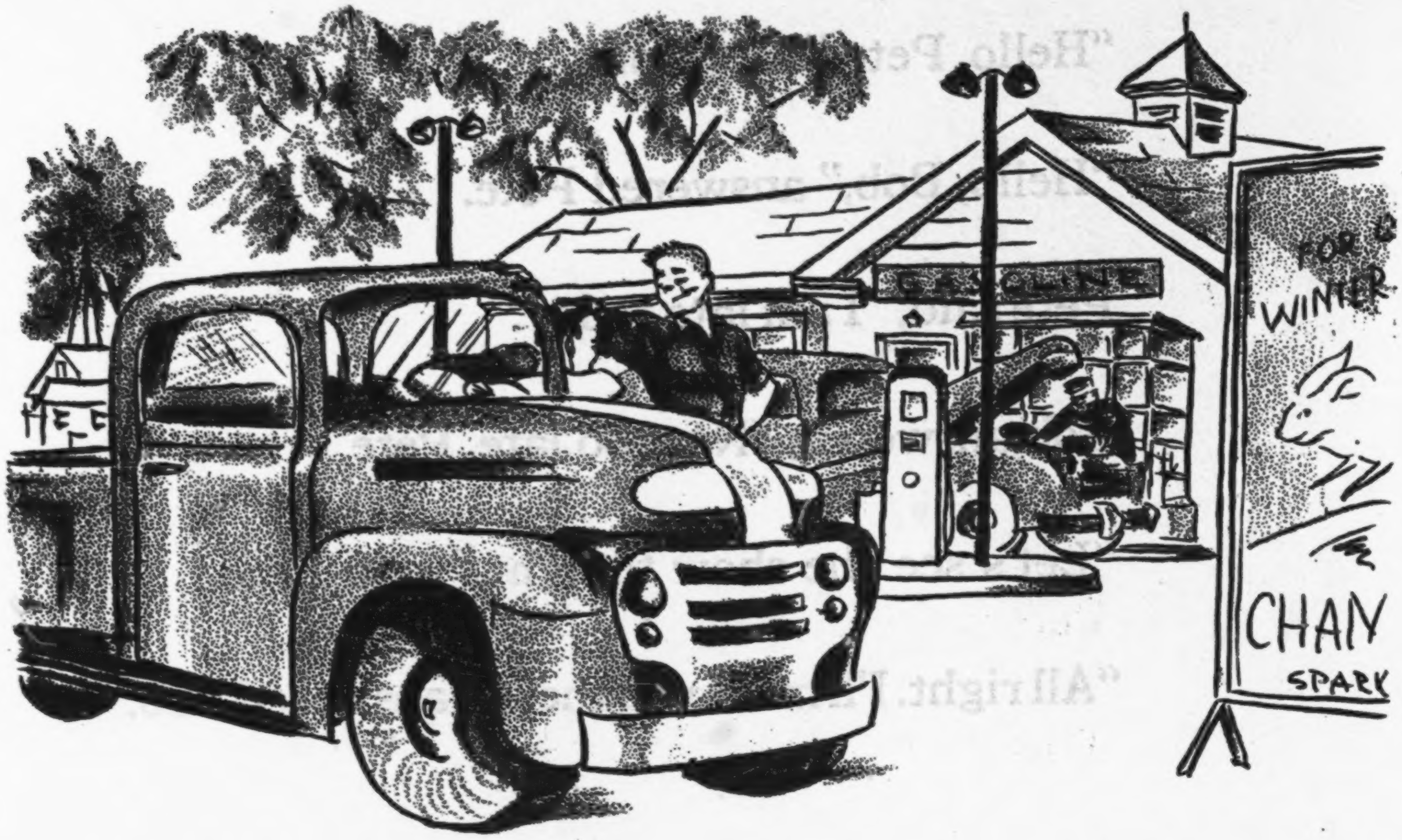
Pete left Mr. Samson's store.

Pete went to the hardware store.

Then Pete stopped at the grocery.

Pete also went to the dentist.

He paid his dentist bill.


GASOLINE
FOR
WINTER
CHAN
SPARK

Pete always stops at this gas station.

Bob works at this gas station.

Pete and Bob are buddies.

Bob is glad to see Pete.

"Hello, Pete," said Bob.

"Hello, Bob," answered Pete.

Pete said, "I am late today."

Bob answered, "Not too late, Pete."

"Let's see the show tonight," said Pete.

"All right. I'll meet you there," answered Bob.

Find a word for the line.

Pete drives a........to town.

Pete has........to sell.

Rivertown is........miles from the farm.

Pete bought........bags of feed.

ten eggs three truck

Find a word for the line.

Tim is in the.................

Army
Navy
Marines

Pete paid his................

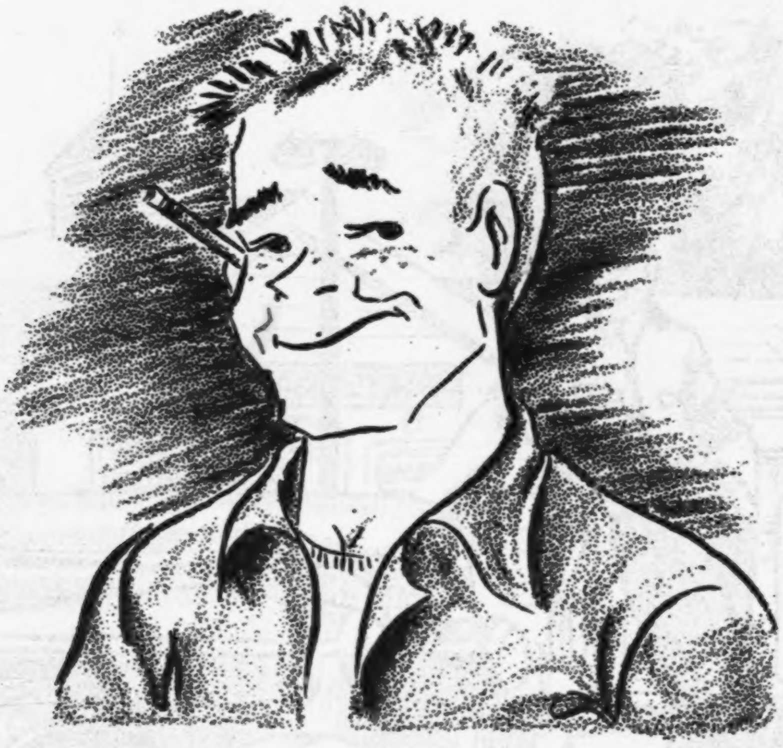
grocery
feed
dentist

Bob works at the....... ....

feed store
gas station
hardware store

Chapter 3

BOB JONES AND HIS JOB



This is Bob Jones.

Bob Jones is Pete's buddy.

Bob lives in Rivertown.

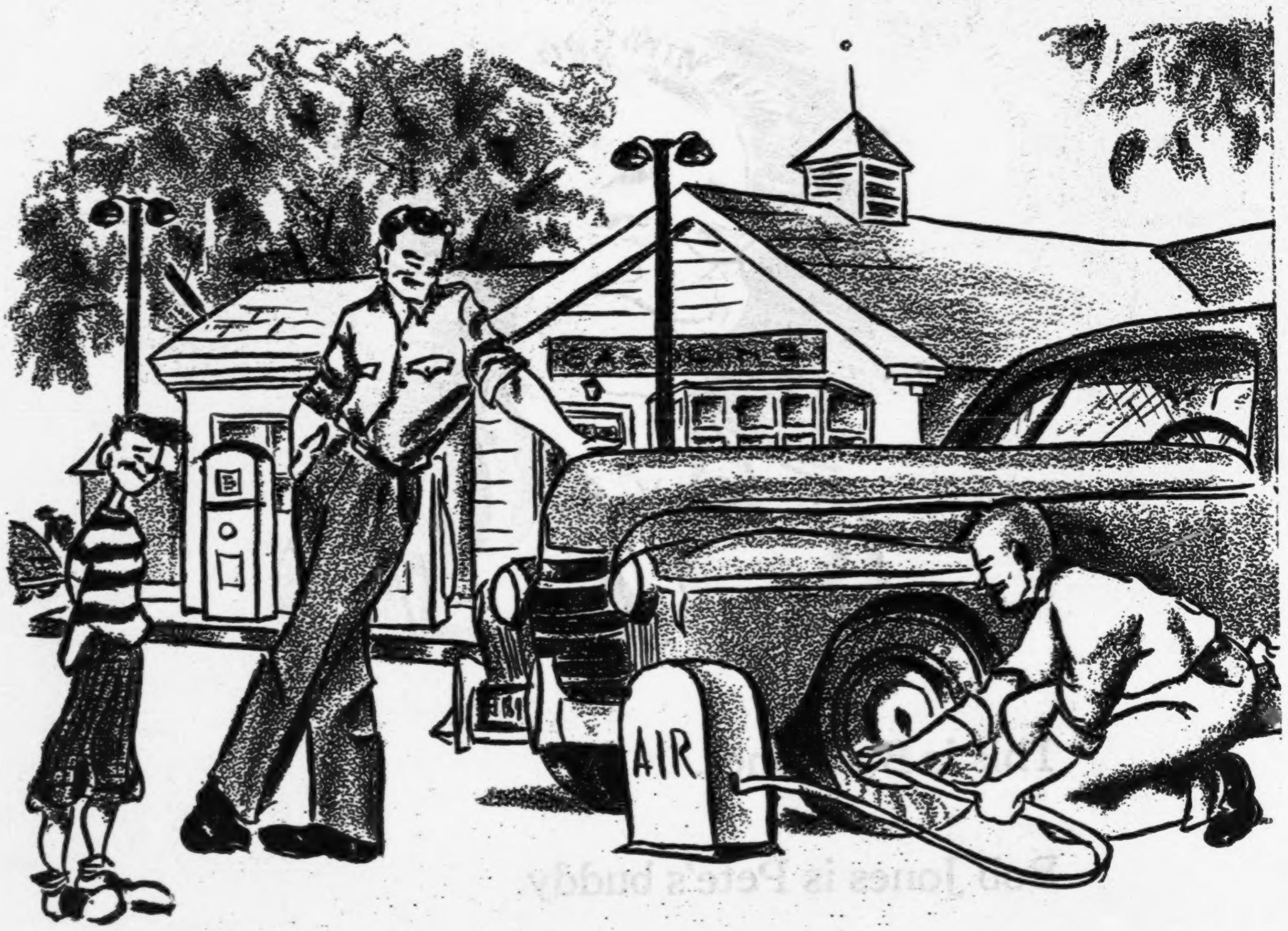
Bob Jones works in a gas station.

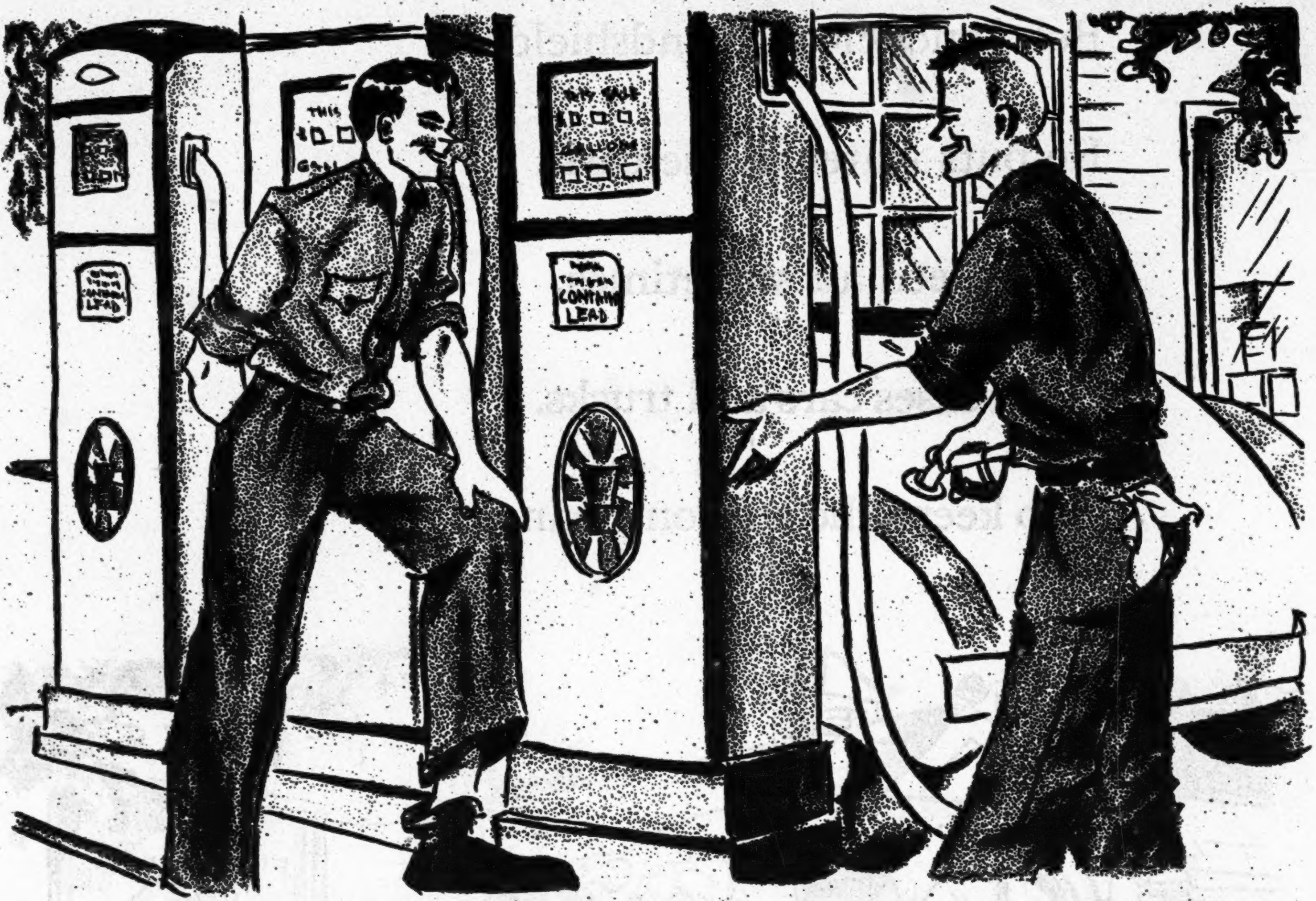
Bob Jones works hard.

He works ten hours a day.

Bob works six days a week.

Bob works as hard as Pete.




THIS
GALLONS
CONTAIN
LEAD

Bob sells gasoline and oil.

He sells tires.

The gas station has batteries for sale.

Bob sells many things.

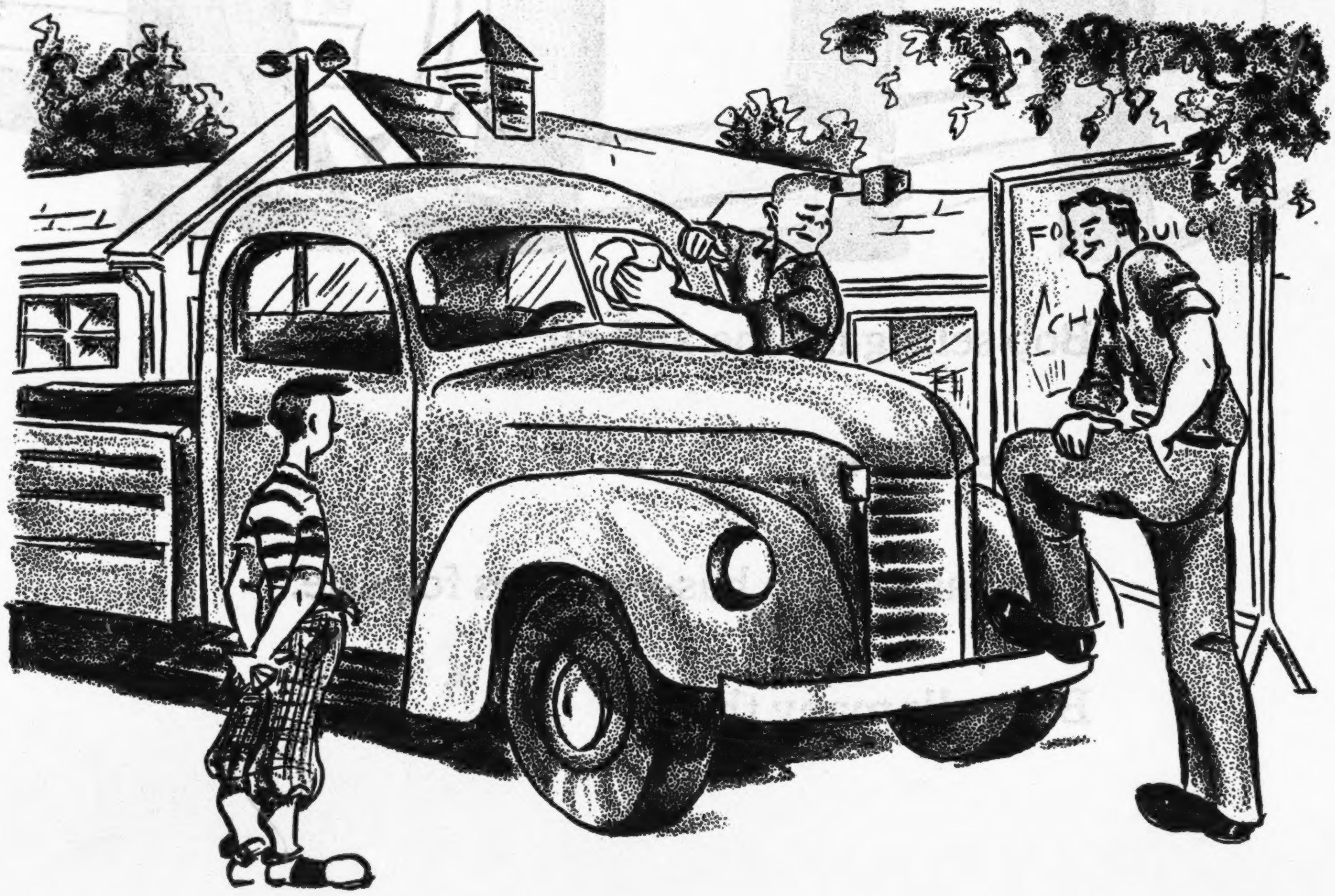
Bob Jones cleans windshields.

He puts water in the cars.

Tires need air sometimes.

He greases cars and trucks.

Bob keeps the station clean.



Find the right word.

Bob Jones works........hours a day.

Bob works six........a week.

The station sells........and........

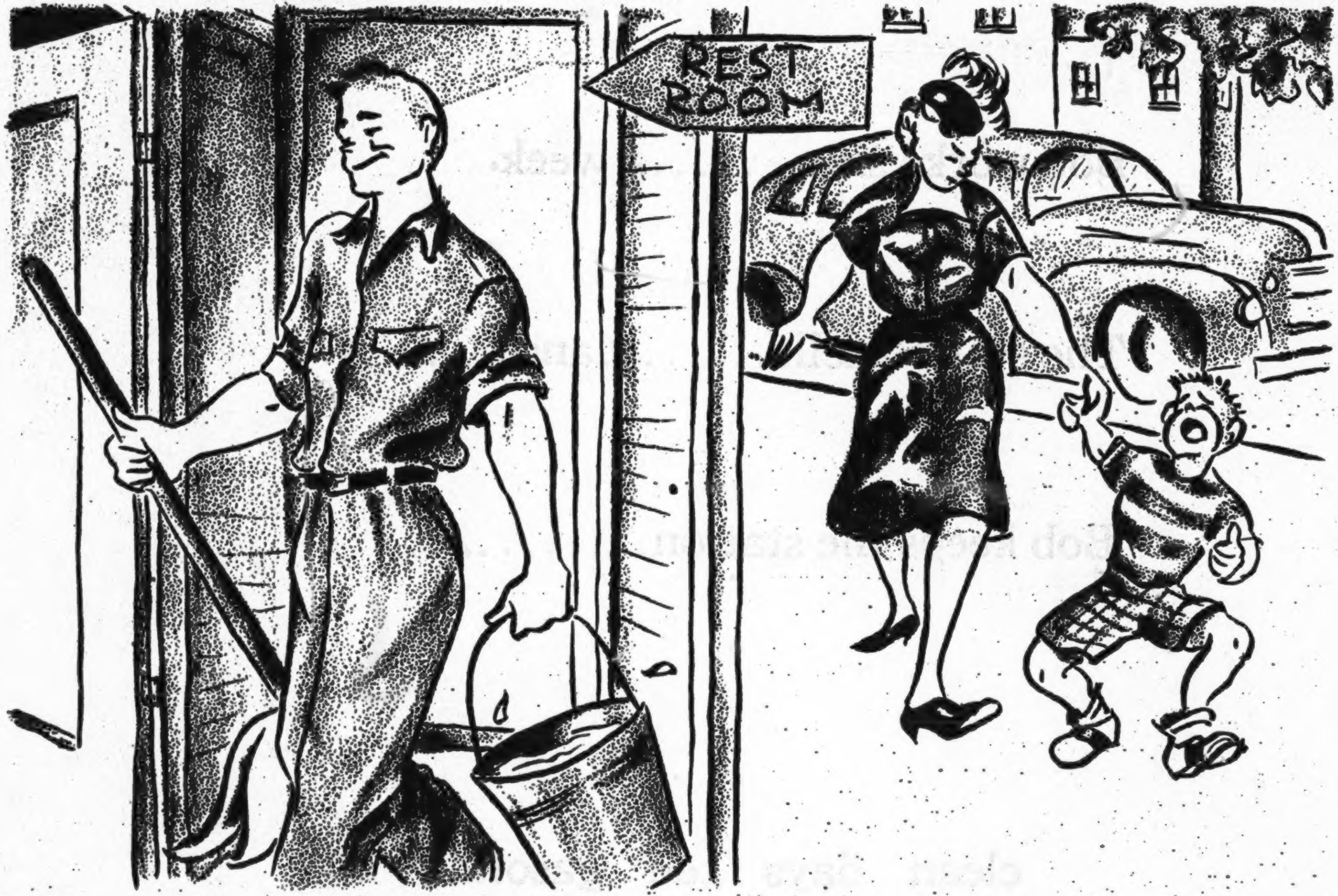
Bob keeps the station........

clean days ten gasoline oil

Bob tries to be happy.

Some jobs are no fun.

Sometimes Bob is not happy.



Bob does not like cleaning the station.

In winter it is cold work.

In summer Bob gets very hot.

Bob Jones is tired of his job.

He does not like the long hours.

He does not like to sweep and mop.

He is not saving any money.

Bob is looking for a better job.

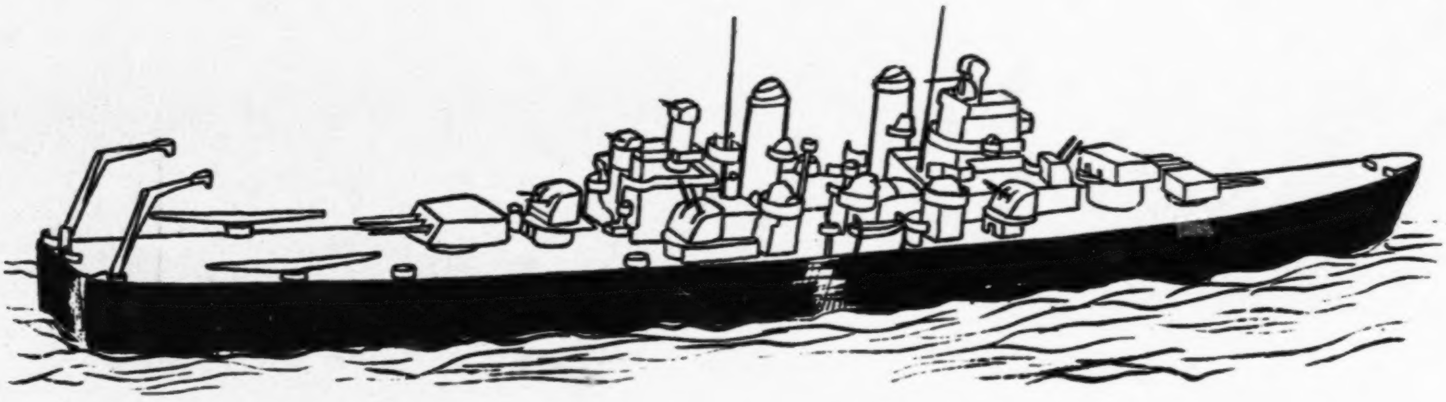
Bob's uncle is in the Navy.

Bob's uncle is named Ned.

Uncle Ned writes to Bob often.

He writes about his travels.

Uncle Ned tells Bob about his ship.



Baltimore Class — Cruiser

Bob often thinks of Uncle Ned.

Bob reads Uncle Ned's letters to Pete.

Uncle Ned likes his ship.

Bob thinks Uncle Ned's ship is beautiful.

He thinks Uncle Ned is lucky.

Say Pete or Bob for each line.

1. ....feeds the pigs.

2. ....drives a tractor.

3. ....sells oil.

4. ....cleans windshields.

5. ....milks cows.

6. ....greases trucks.

7. ....cleans the station.

8. ....gets tired of the farm.

9. ....puts air in tires.

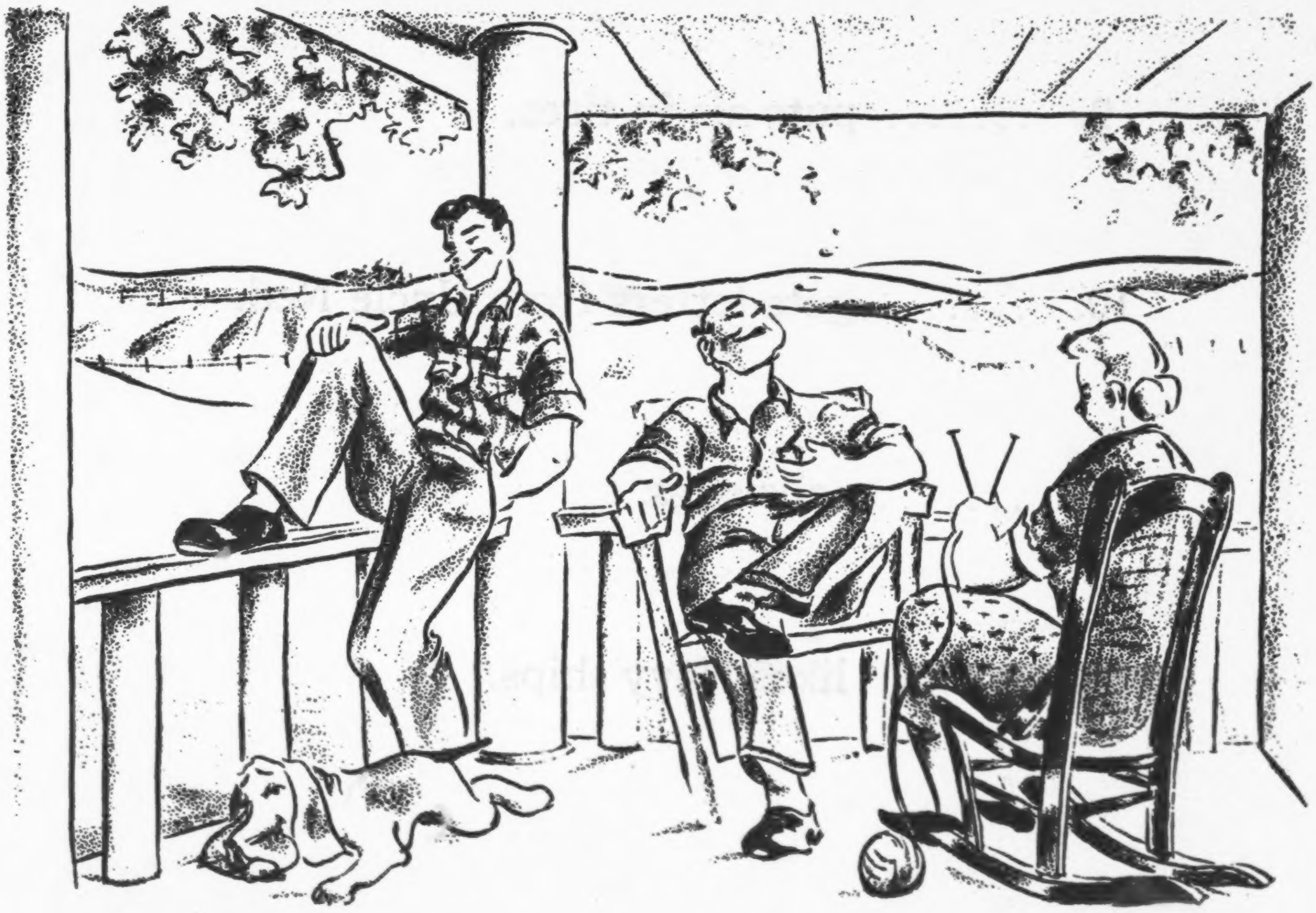
10. ....gets letters from Uncle Ned.

11. ....sells eggs.

12. ....likes Navy ships.

Chapter 4

PETE'S HOME AND FAMILY



This is Pete's home.

Pete's mother and father live in this house.

Pete's mother and father are named Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

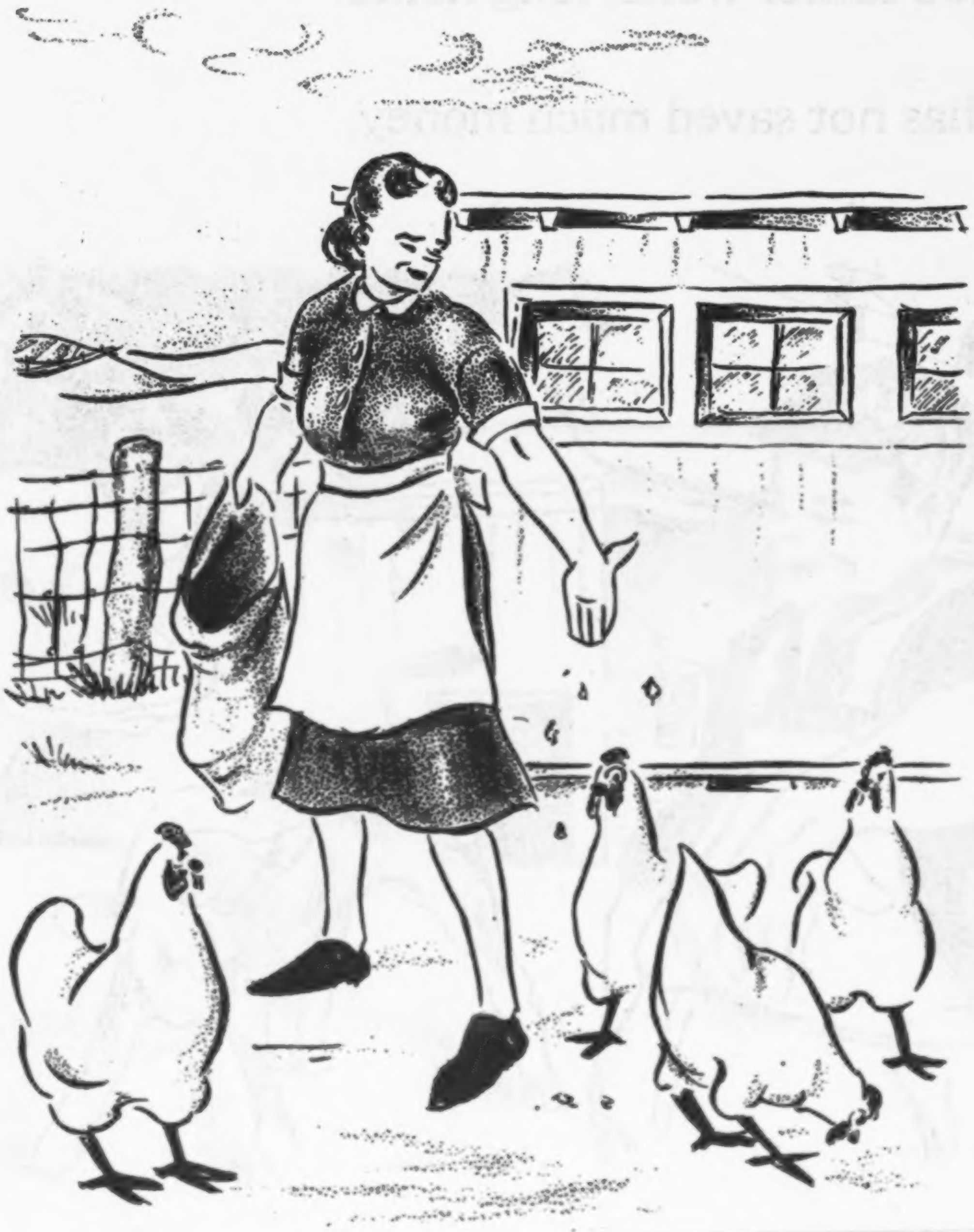
Pete has lived in this house all his life.

Mrs. Brown is a good mother.

She loves her son.

Mrs. Brown cooks, and cleans the house.

She helps with the chickens and the garden.



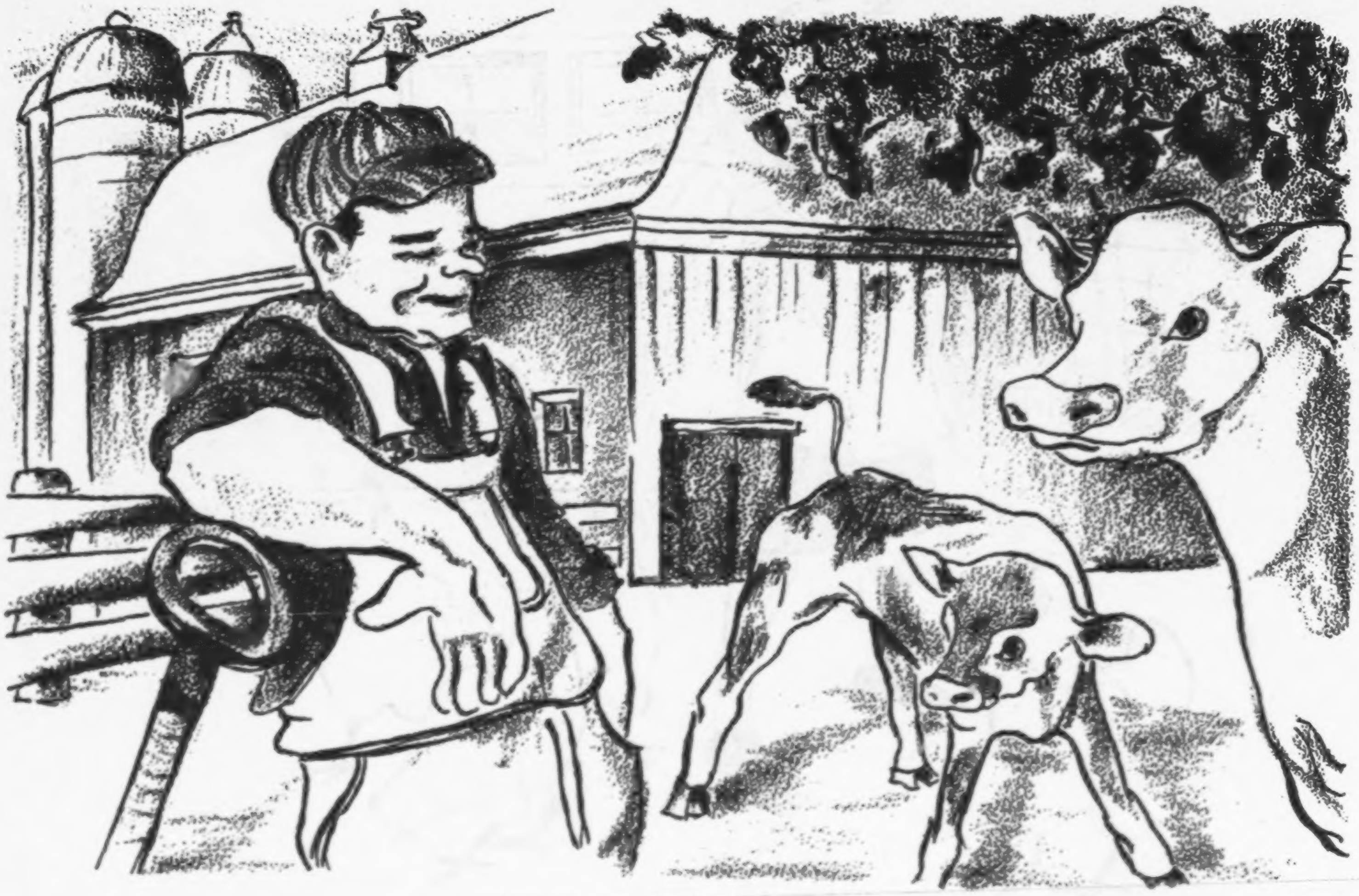
Mr. Brown has a large farm.

He likes to work with animals.

He likes to see things grow.

Pete's father works long hours.

He has not saved much money.



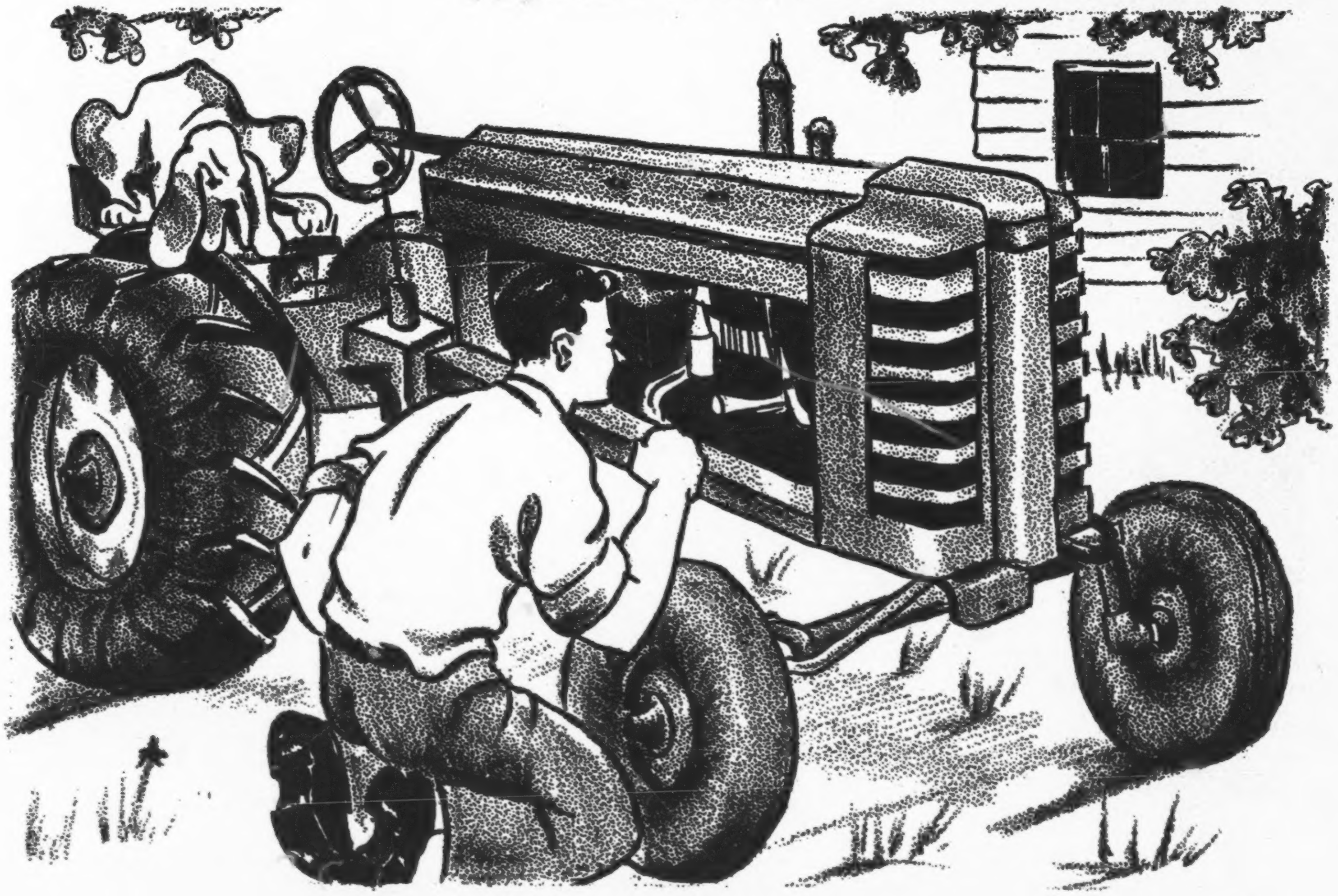
Farm machinery costs lots of money.

Pete asked his father to buy a tractor.

Pete is helping his father pay for the tractor.

Mr. Brown does not want more machinery.

Pete likes to work with machinery.



Pete does not like to work with horses.

Pete may leave the farm.

Mr. Brown wants Pete to stay on the farm.

Mrs. Brown wants Pete to be happy.

Answer "Yes" or "No"

1. Does Mr. Brown save much money? ....
2. Does Mrs. Brown clean the house? ....
3. Does Mr. Brown like the animals? ....
4. Was Pete Brown born on this farm? ....
5. Does Pete's father like working long hours?

Chapter 5

BOB AND PETE GO HUNTING

There are rabbits on Pete's farm.

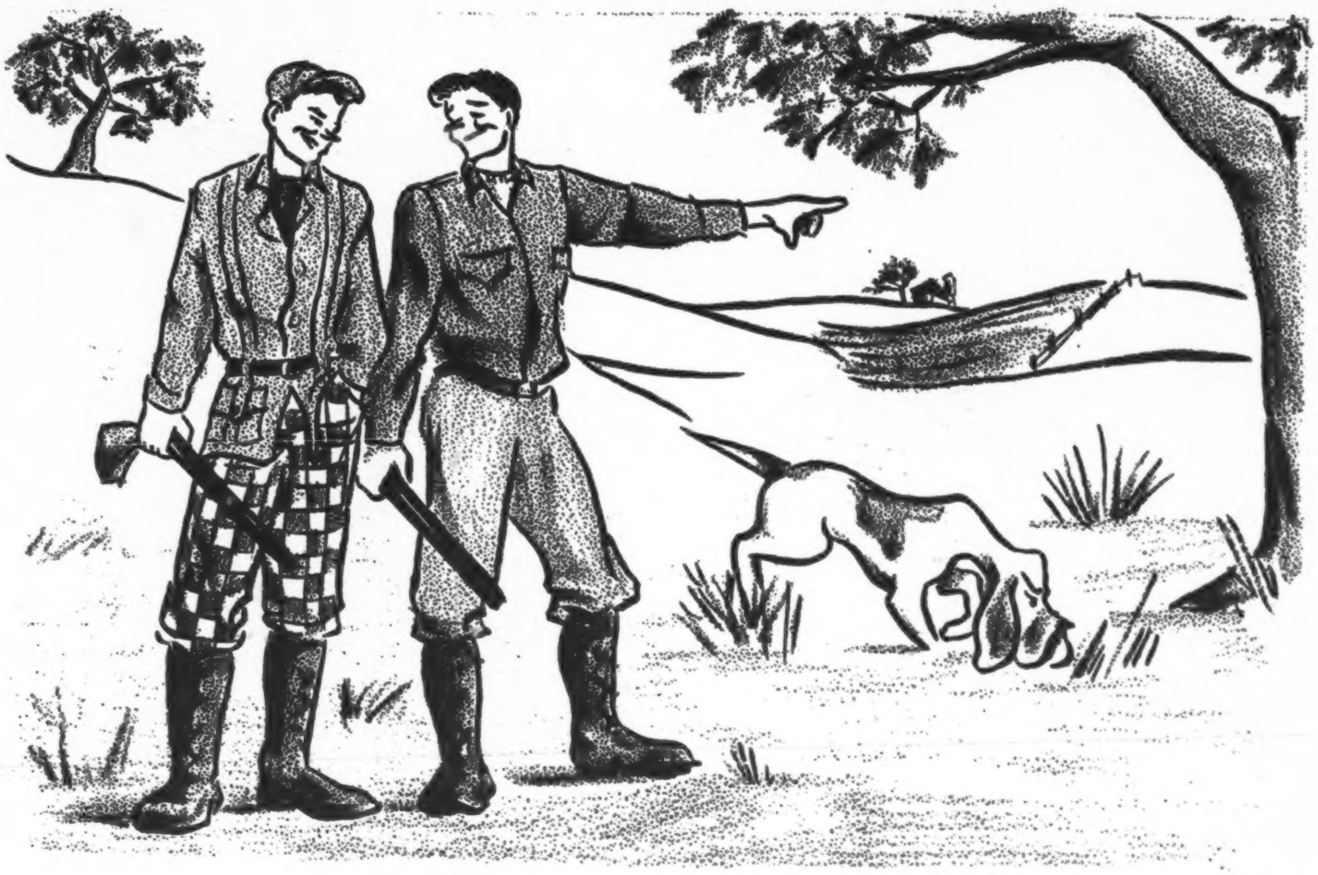
Pete often hunts on his farm.

Bob likes to hunt with Pete.

Pete and Bob wait for the hunting season.

Pete worked hard to be ready to go hunting.

Bob's boss gave him the day off to go hunting.



Pete has a dog named Brownie.

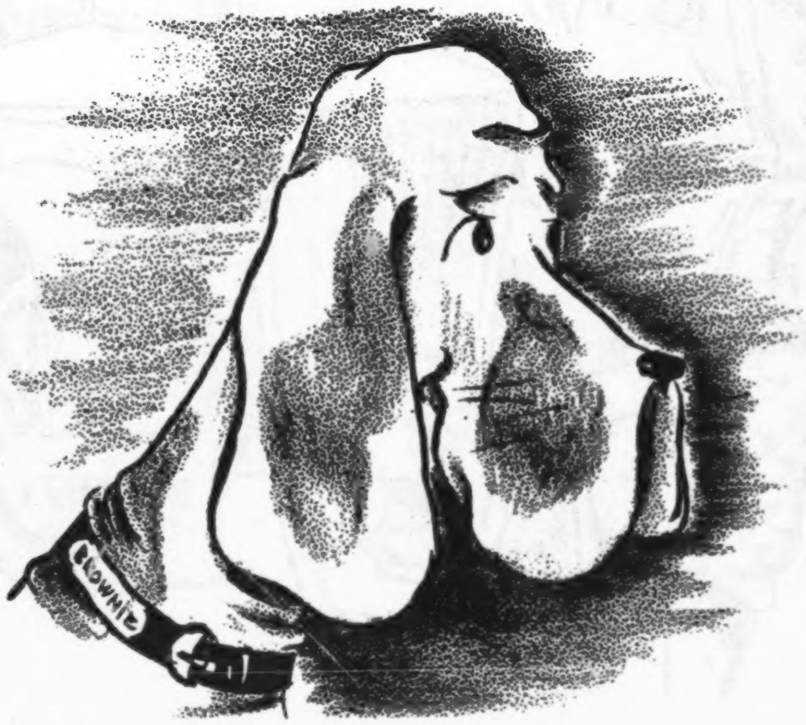
Brownie is a hunting dog.

Brownie likes to hunt rabbits.

Pete finished his work.

He was ready to go hunting.

Brownie was ready, too.

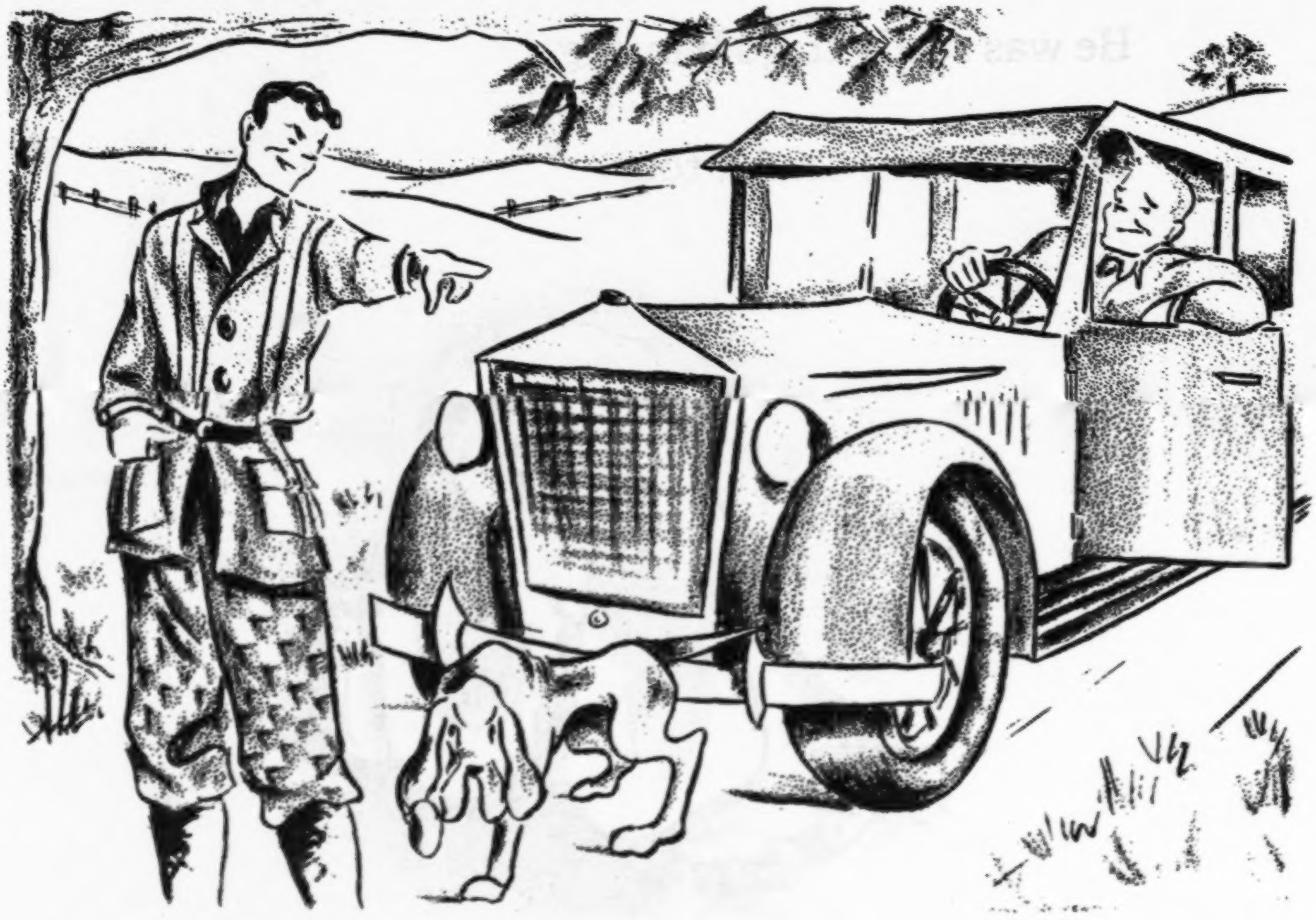


At last the day arrived.

Bob drove to Pete's farm.

Pete was ready to go hunting.

"Where are the rabbits?" asked Bob.



"There are some rabbits in the field across the creek," said Pete.

Soon Pete, Bob, and Brownie were hunting.

Brownie found a rabbit right away.

Pete was a good shot.

But he missed the rabbit.

Bob shot and killed the first rabbit.

"Good shot, Bob!" said Pete

"I was lucky," said Bob, laughing.

Brownie carried the rabbit to Bob.

Brownie's tail was wagging.

Bob and Pete hunted until they were tired.

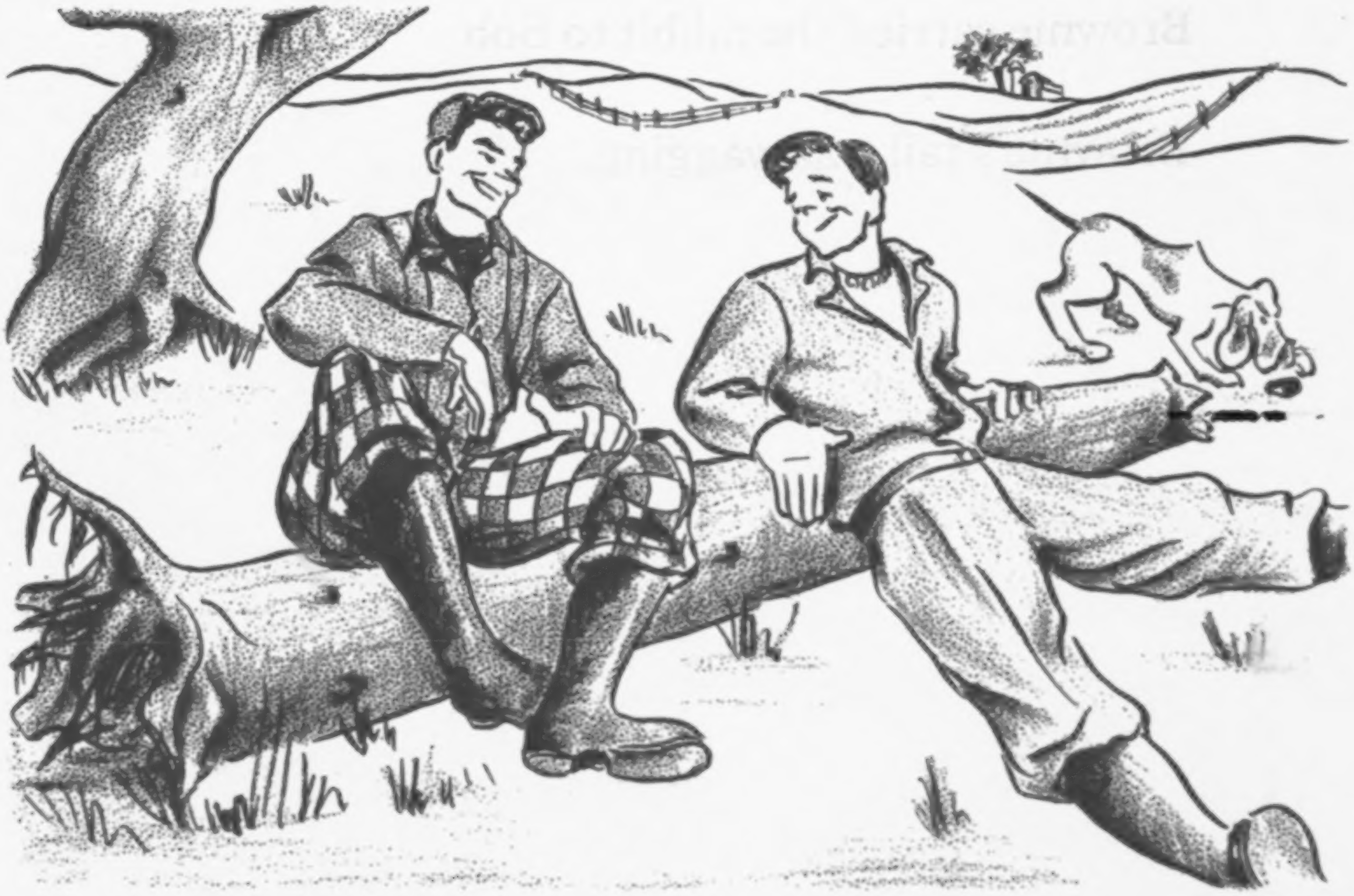
Bob had shot four rabbits.

Pete had shot five rabbits.

Brownie was very tired, too.

Bob said, "Let's sit down under this tree and rest."

Pete said, "This is a good place to rest."



Find the right answer.

1. Bob and Pete went........fishing, hunting.
2. Pete's dog is named........Brownie, Spot.
3. They were hunting........birds, rabbits.
4. Bob shot........three rabbits, four rabbits.
5. Pete killed........five rabbits, six rabbits.
6. Brownie was........tired, lost.

Chapter 6

PETE AND BOB TALK ARMY AND NAVY

The buddies found a soft spot under a tree.

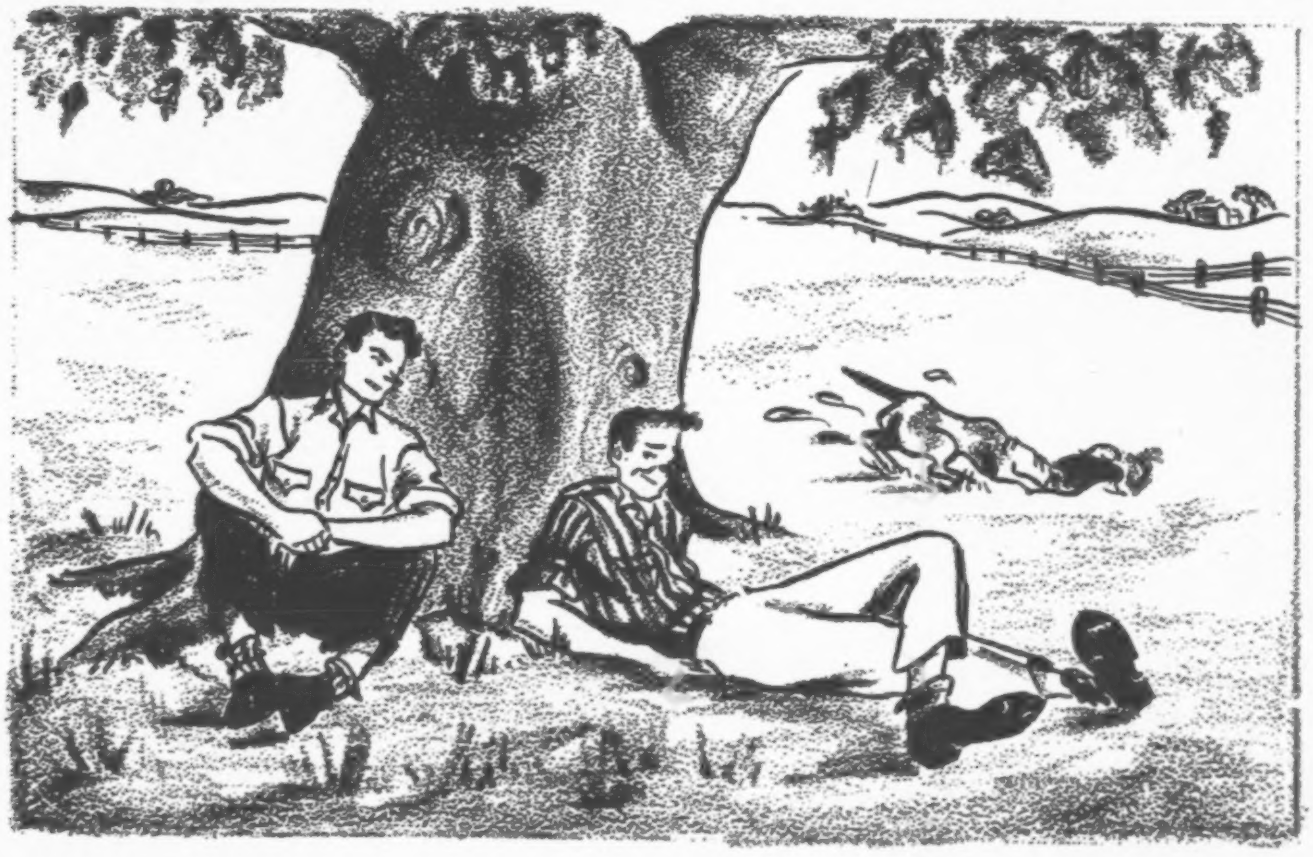
Pete said, "Bob, I have some news for you."

"What's up, Pete?" said Bob.

"I am going to leave the farm," said Pete.

"Where will you go?" asked Bob.

"I think I will join the Army," answered Pete.



"I don't see any future here," added Pete.

"Last week I went to Plain City.

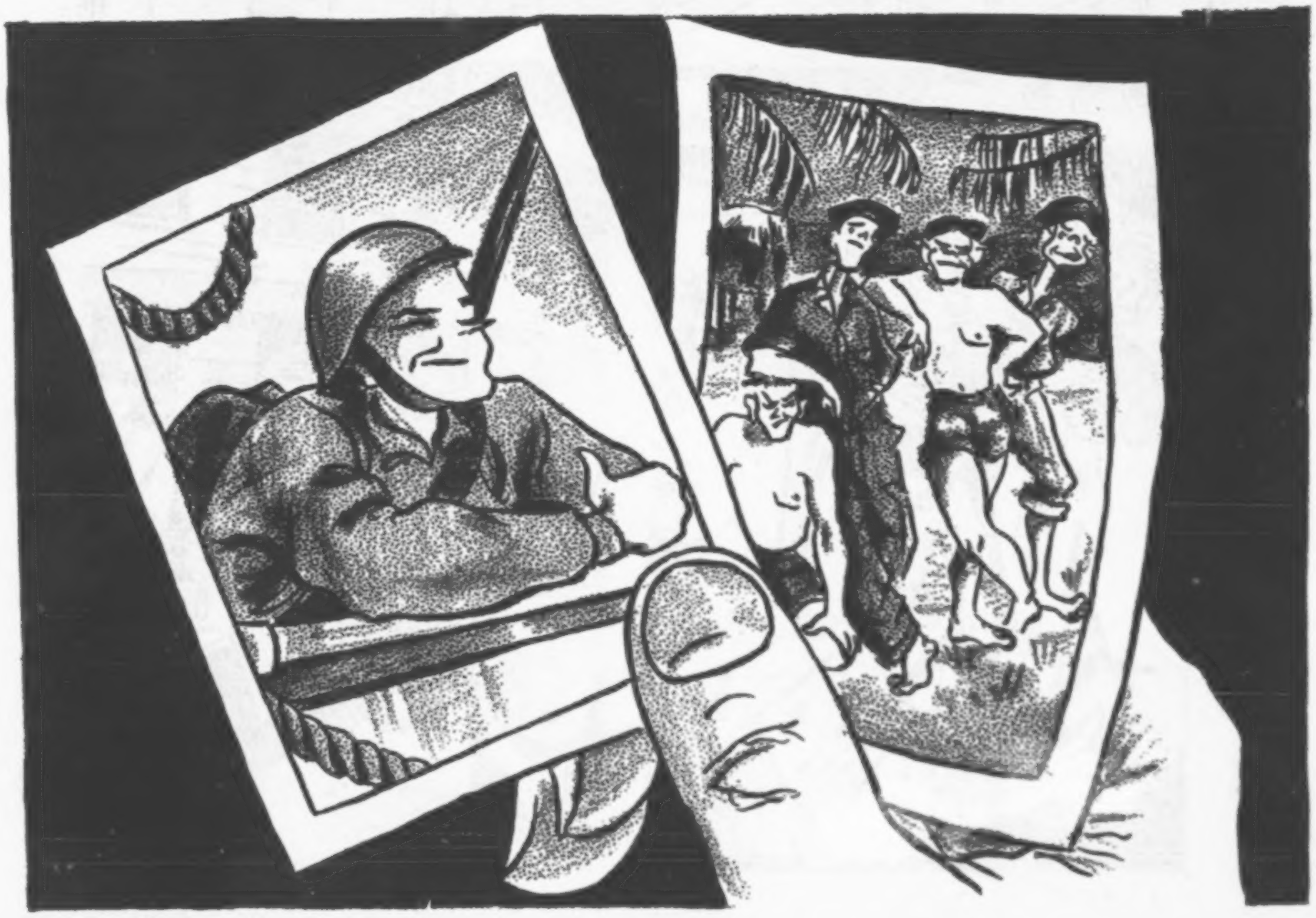
I talked to the Army Recruiting Officer."

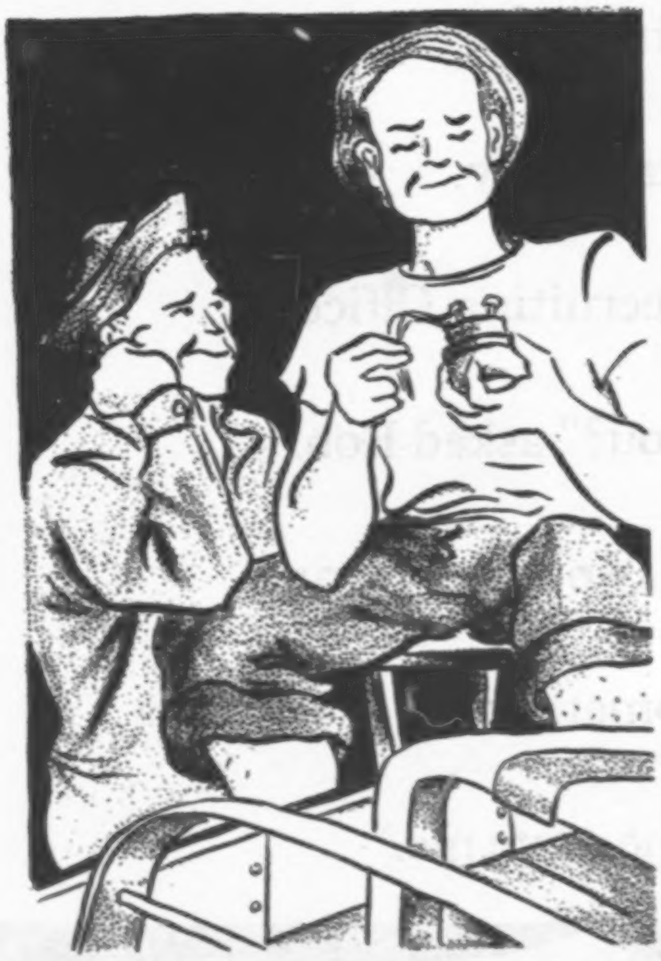
"Did it sound good to you?" asked Bob.

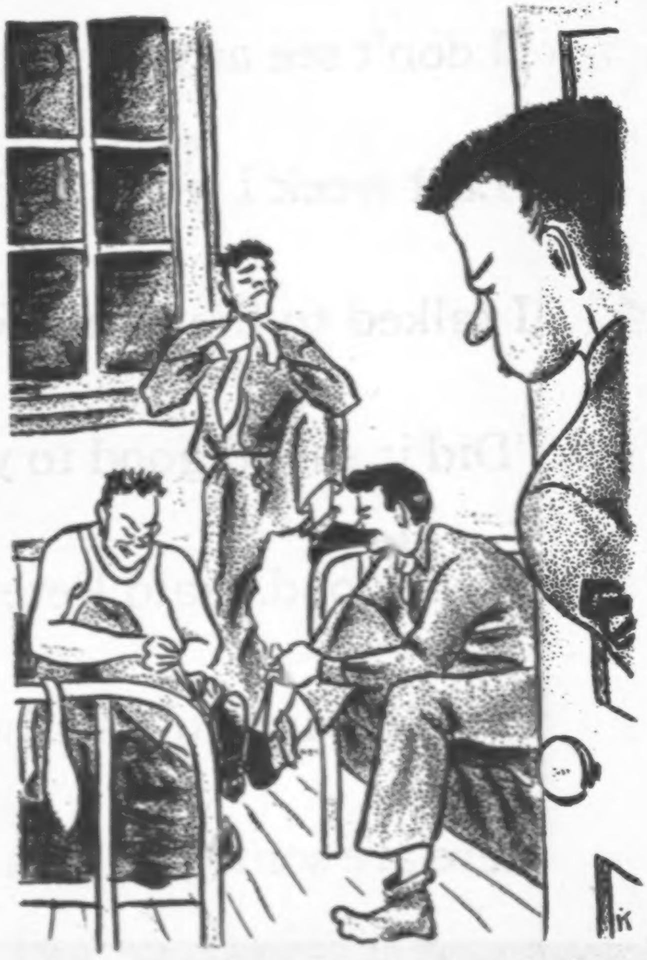
"Very good," said Pete; "good pay, travel,

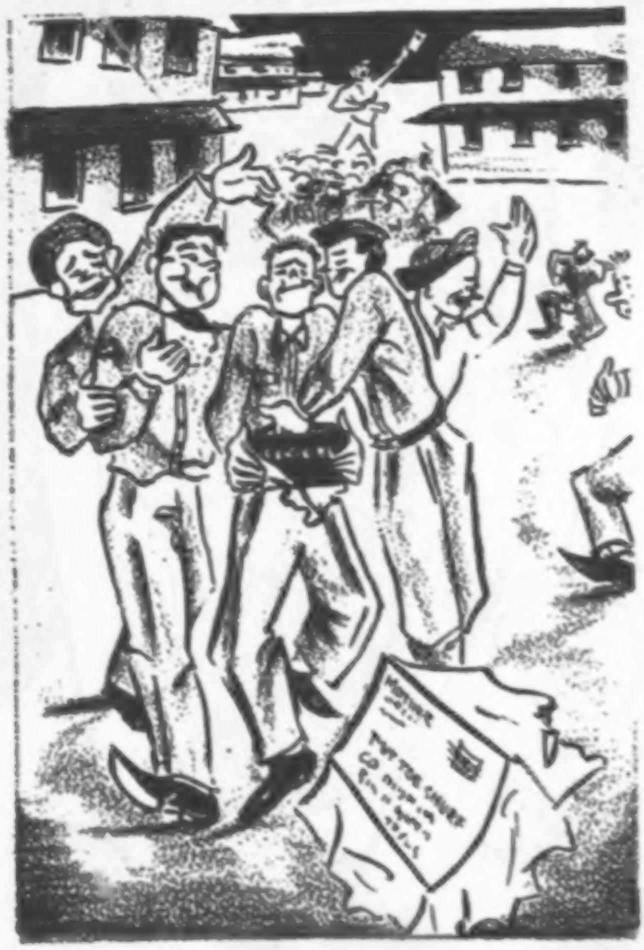
and a chance to learn something.

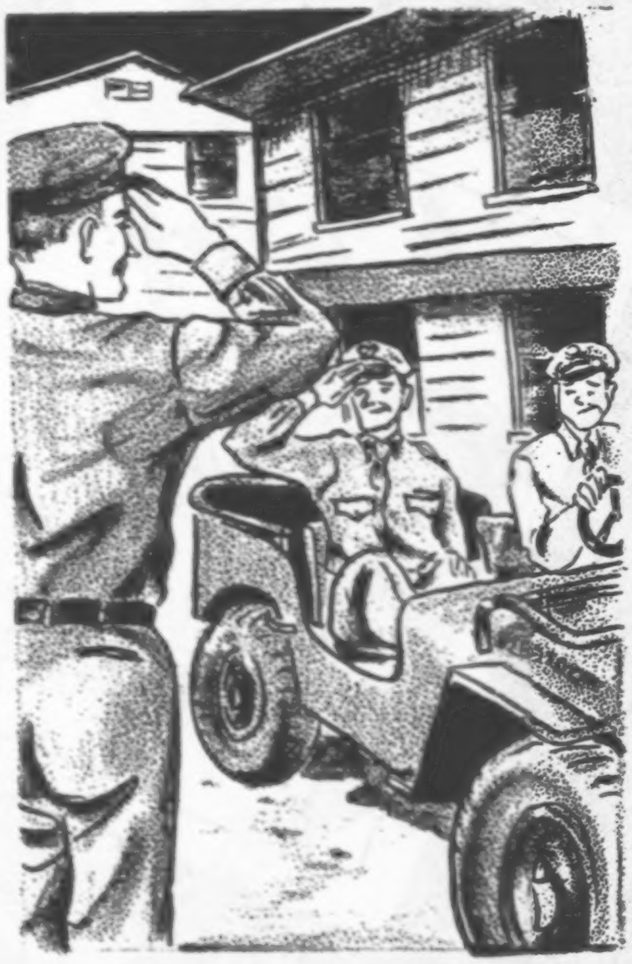
Here are some pictures he gave me."











Bob looked at all the pictures.

"Are you sure you will like the Army?" asked Bob.

"Yes, I think I will," answered Pete.

"George Perry was in the Army three years."

"Why did he get out?" asked Bob.

Pete told Bob that George's father was sick.

George came home to run the garage.

In the Army, George had learned a lot about machines.

Bob was quiet.

He looked at the pictures again.

Then Bob said, “I think I have news for you, too.”

“I am going to leave the gas station.

I have liked ships all my life.

Uncle Ned wants me to join the Navy.”

Bob took a picture from his pocket.

It was a picture of Uncle Ned’s ship.

"What does your dad say?" asked Pete.

"Dad has been a painter all his life.

He does not want me to be a painter," said Bob.

"And Mother will take it all right, I think."

"Are you going to join the Navy?" asked Pete.

"If you leave I will join the Navy," answered Bob.

Bob and Pete agreed to tell their parents right away.

Find the right word.

Pete is going to join the.........

It looks like the........for Bob.

Pete wants to.........

Bob likes.........

Bob's dad is a.........

Pete and Bob agreed to tell their.........

ships Army parents Navy travel painter

Chapter 7

PETE AND BOB TELL THEIR FOLKS

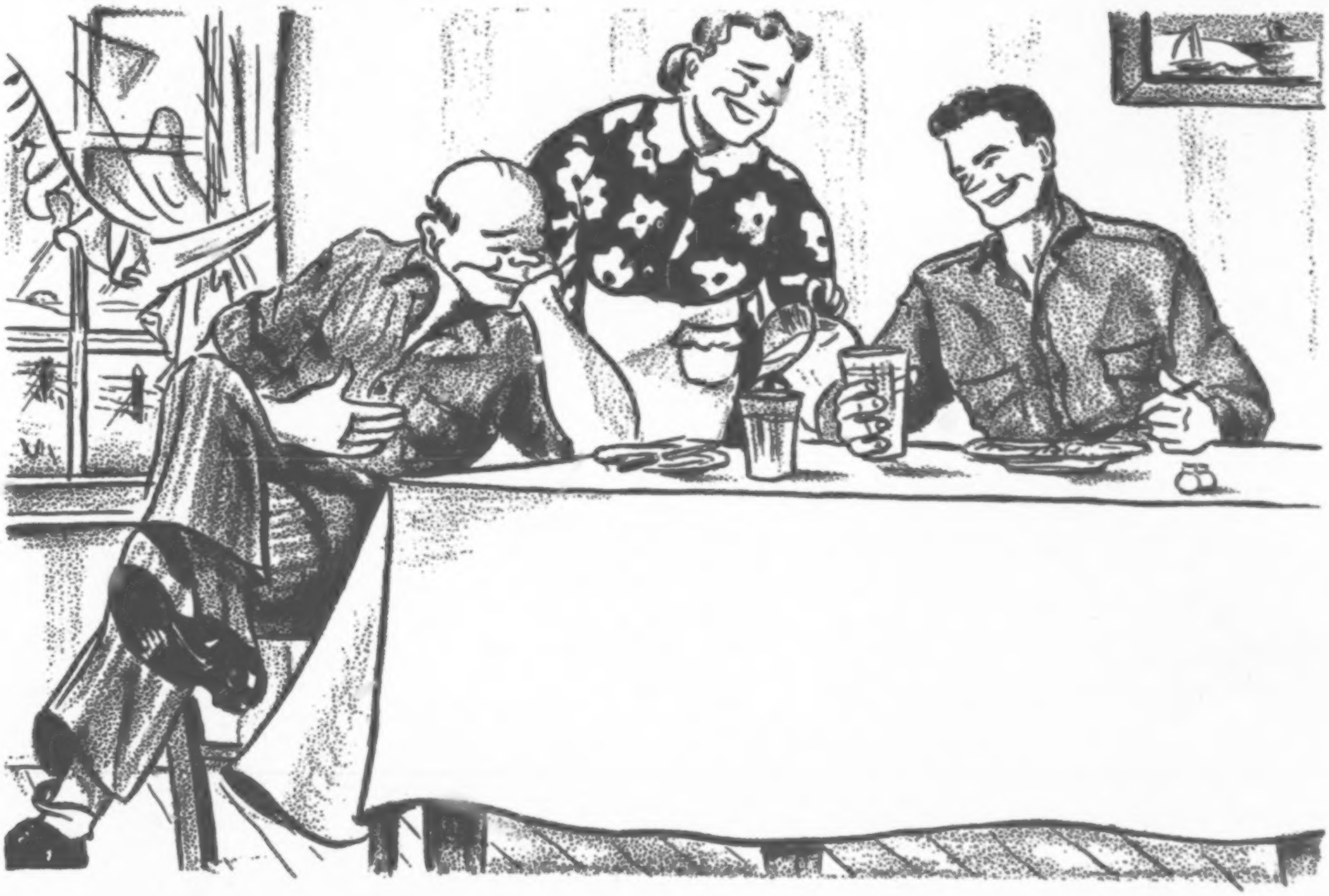
"Rabbit pie for supper!" said Pete's mother.

Pete had cleaned the rabbits.

Mrs. Brown had made the pie.

"Pete is a good hunter," said Mr. Brown.

"I was lucky today," answered Pete.



"This pie makes a good supper," said Mr. Brown.

"Mother is a good cook," answered Pete.

Mrs. Brown said, "Pete brought me tender rabbits."

"Are you hunting tomorrow, Pete?" asked his father.

Pete did not answer right away.

Then he said, "Dad and Mom, I want to talk to you."

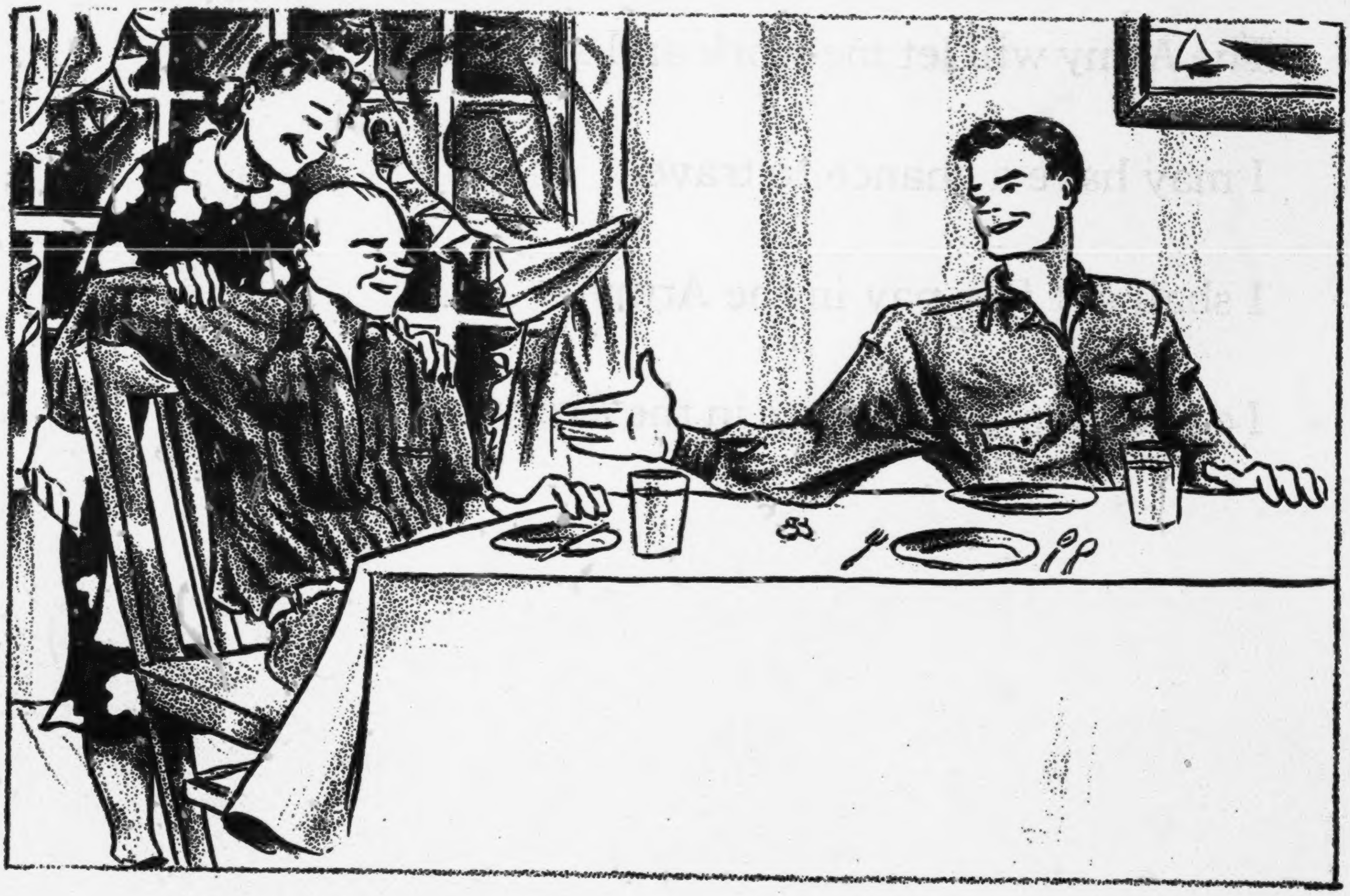
"Is something the matter, Pete?" asked Mrs. Brown.

"You did not hurt anybody today, did you?" added his father.

"No," said Pete. "I want to leave the farm."

"Leave the farm!" said Mr. and Mrs. Brown together.

"Where would you go?"



"I want to join the Army," said Pete.

"Why do you want to join the Army?" asked Mr. Brown.

"I don't want to farm, all my life," said Pete.

"But why be a soldier?" asked his mother.

Pete answered, "The Army will let me work for the things I want.

I want an education.

The Army will let me work and study.

I may have a chance to travel.

I shall get fair pay in the Army.

I can earn a good future in the Army."

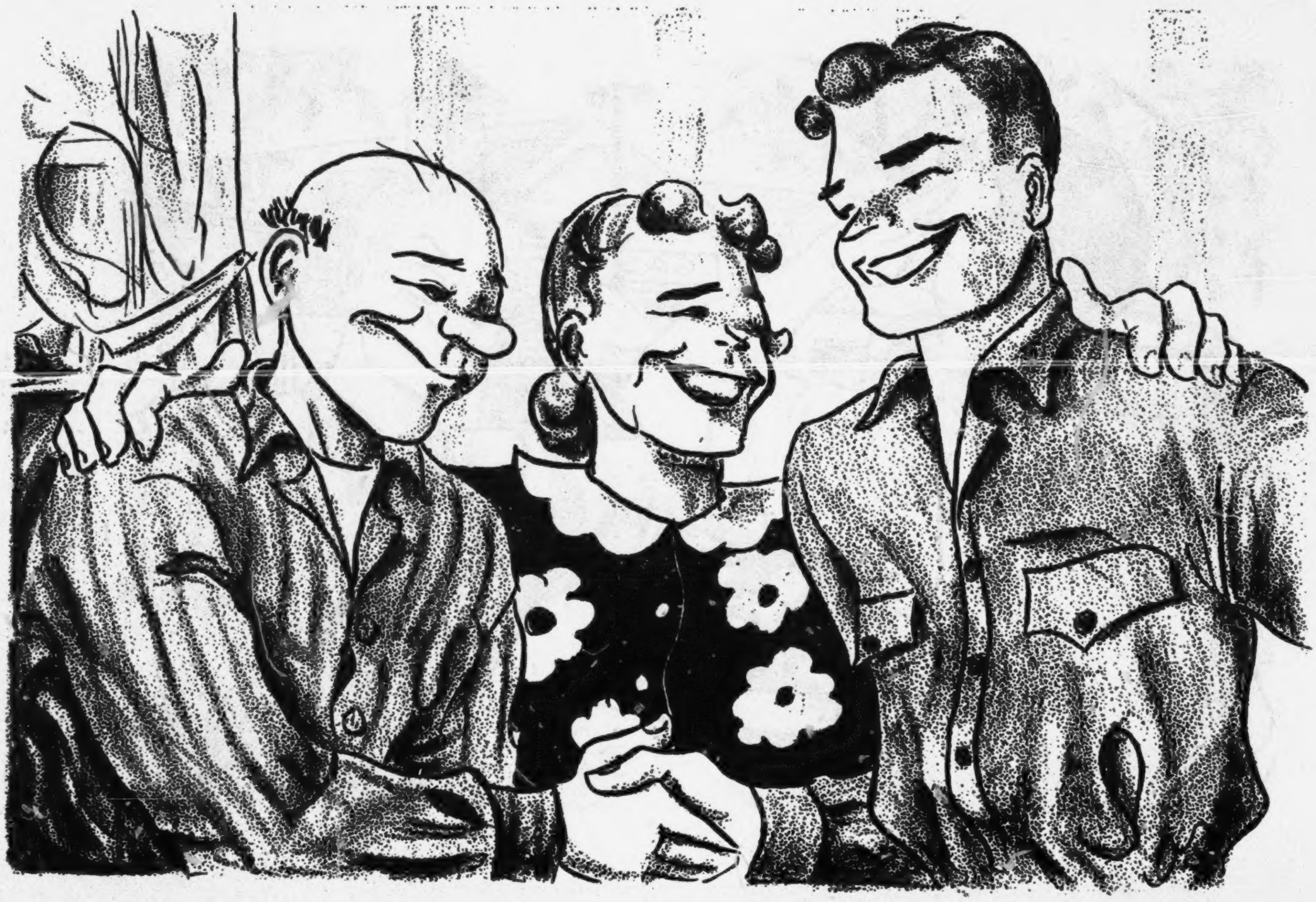
Pete talked a long time with his mother and father.

"I'll miss Pete on the farm," said Mr. Brown..

"But Pete should do what he thinks best," answered Mrs. Brown.

"Dad, I think I should go," said Pete.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown told Pete that he should try Army life.



Pete was happy.

Early the next day, he went to see Bob.

He wanted to know if Bob could join the Navy.

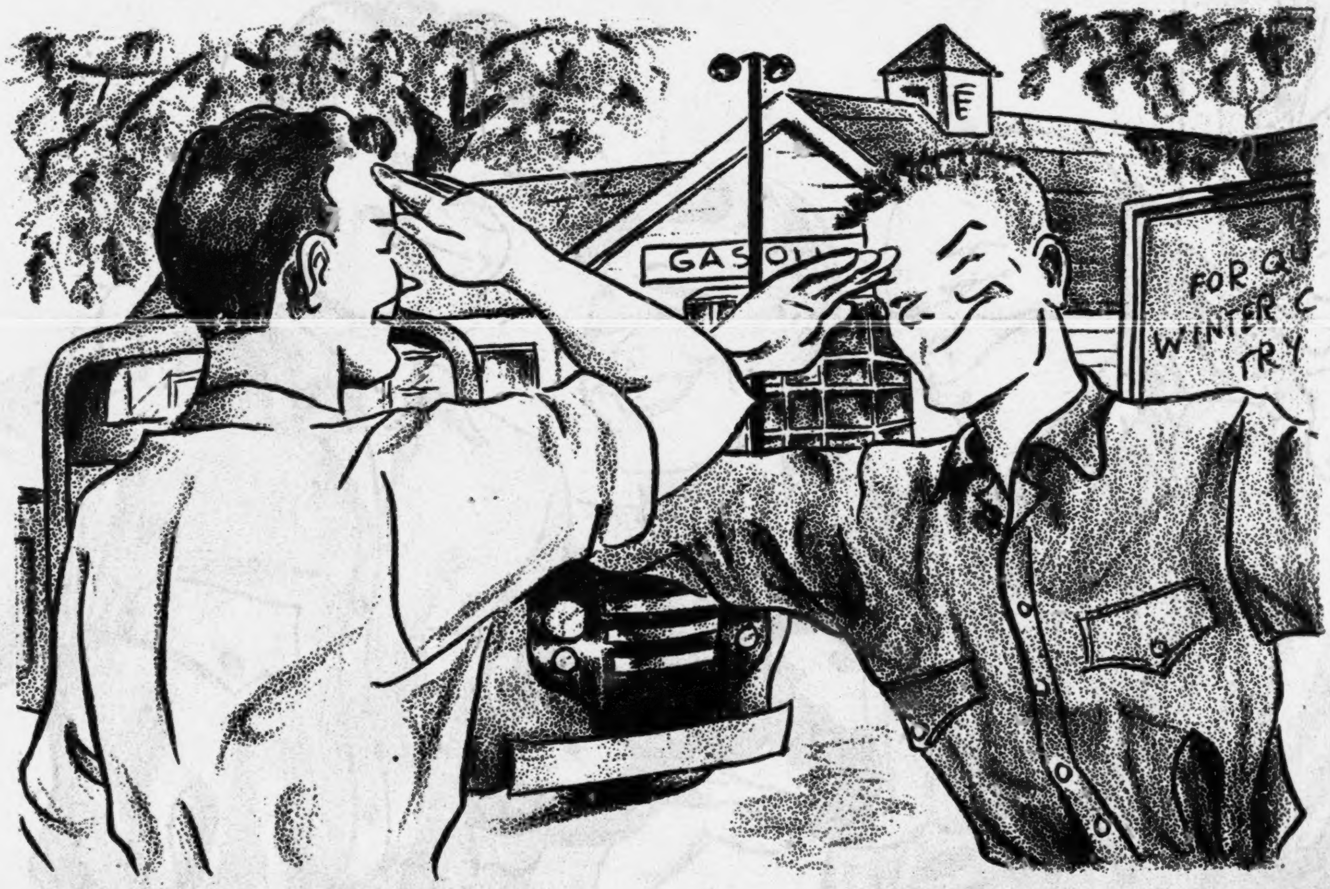
Bob met him with a big smile.

"It's O.K. for the Navy!" said Bob.

"Dad and Mom were swell."

Pete told Bob his good news.

He said, "Bob, we are really going!"



Bob said, “How soon can we go?”

“The sooner the better,” said Pete.

“Have you told your girl?” asked Bob.

“No, but Sue will agree.

I have some plans for her,” answered Pete.

“When are you going to tell her the news?” asked Bob.

“Big date tonight,” said Pete.

“Sue is a swell girl,” answered Bob.

Find the right words.

1. Mrs. Brown cooked a rabbit (stew - pie - roast).
2. Pete's dad called him a good (fisherman - farmer - hunter).
3. Pete said the Army would give him (a chance to study - a farm - a tractor).
4. Pete would have a chance to (hunt - travel - fish).
5. Pete would get from the Army (fair pay - large crops - rabbit pie).
6. The Army would give Pete (easy work - no future - a good future).

Chapter 8

PETE TELLS HIS GIRL

Pete arrived at Sue's house.

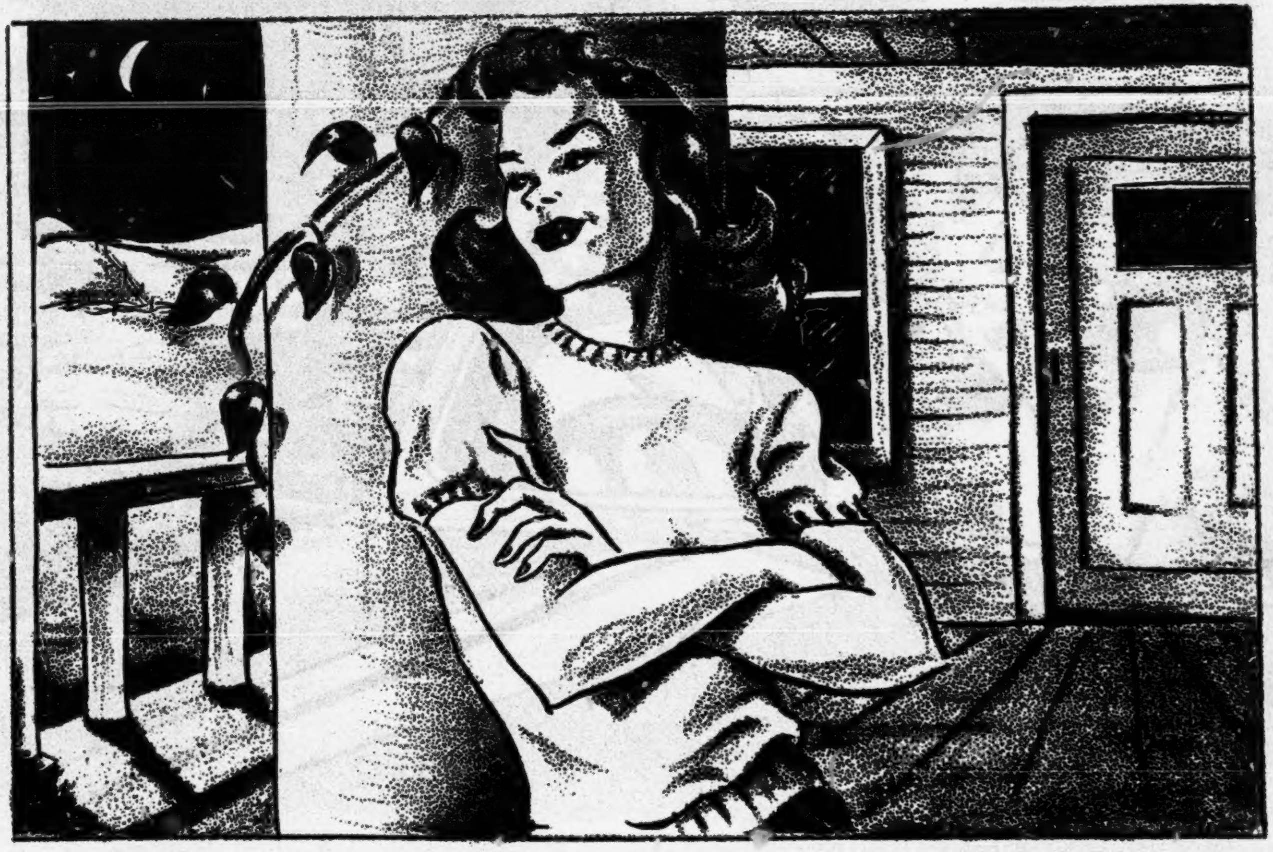
He did not know how to tell Sue about joining the Army.

Sue was waiting on the porch.

"It's going to be hard to leave her," thought Pete.

Sue said, "Hi, Pete, let's go to the show."

"How about a ride? I want to talk to you," answered Pete.



"Where shall we go?" asked Sue.

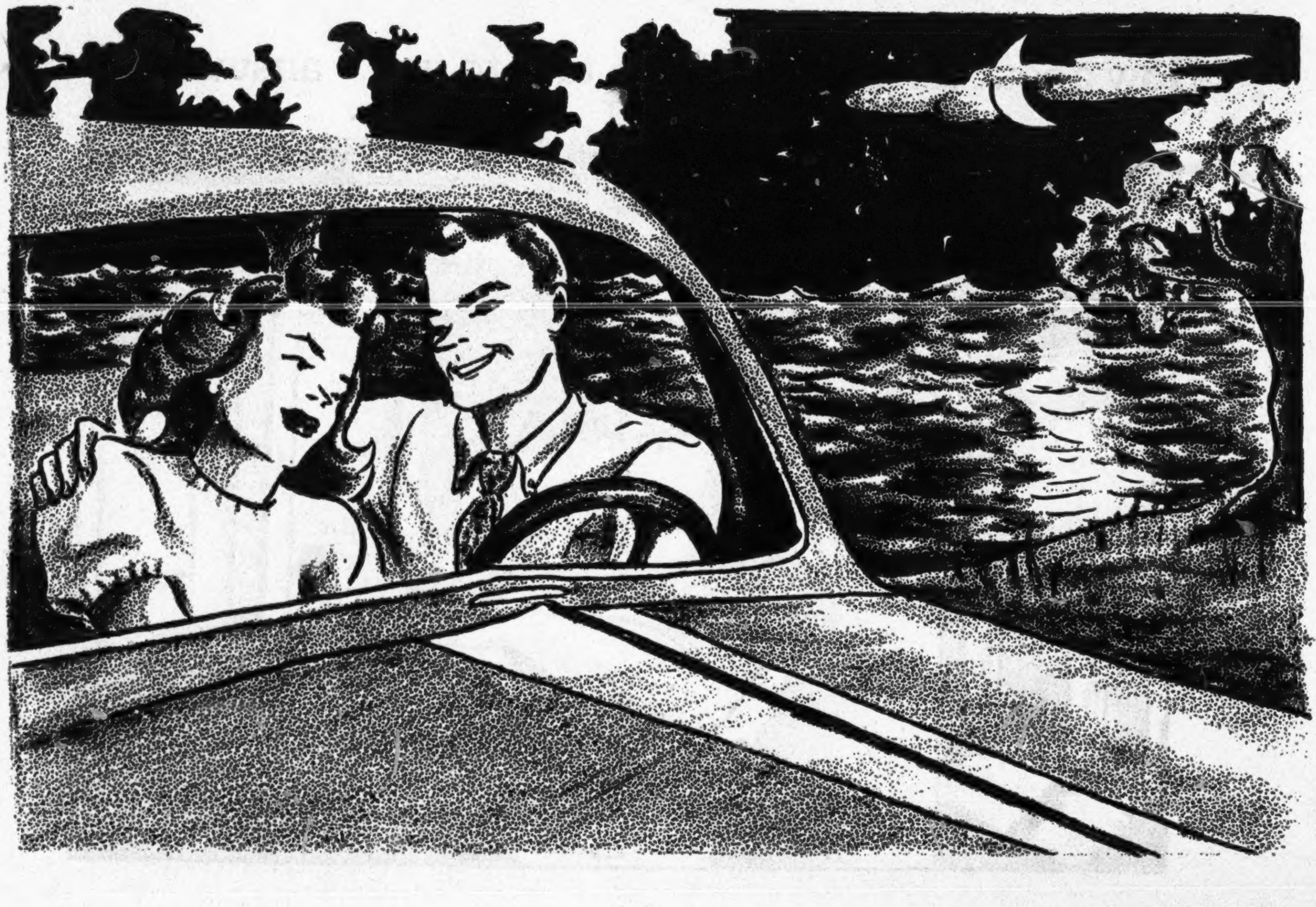
Pete answered, "Let's go out by the river."

"What is on your mind, Pete?" asked Sue, when they arrived.

Pete put his arm around Sue.

"Honey, what would you think if I left home?" he asked her.

"Why would you go away, darling?" asked Sue.



Pete told Sue about his talk with Bob.

He said that Bob was going to join the Navy.

Pete then said his parents were willing to have him join the Army

Pete told Sue his reasons for joining the Army.

He told her he could get an education.

"An education would lead to promotions," he said.

"Good pay will help me save some money," Pete added.

"Do soldiers have families?" Sue asked.

Pete answered, "Yes, after they make good in the Army."

"When will I see you again?" asked Sue.

"I want to spend my furloughs with you," answered Pete.

"You will write to me, won't you?" asked Sue.

Pete promised to write often.

Sue said she would wait for him.

They drove home.

Say “Yes” or “No” after each sentence.

Pete told Sue about joining the Army. .....

Pete was glad to leave Sue. .....

Sue and Pete went to the show. .....

Pete put his arm around Sue. .....

Sue hit Pete hard. .....

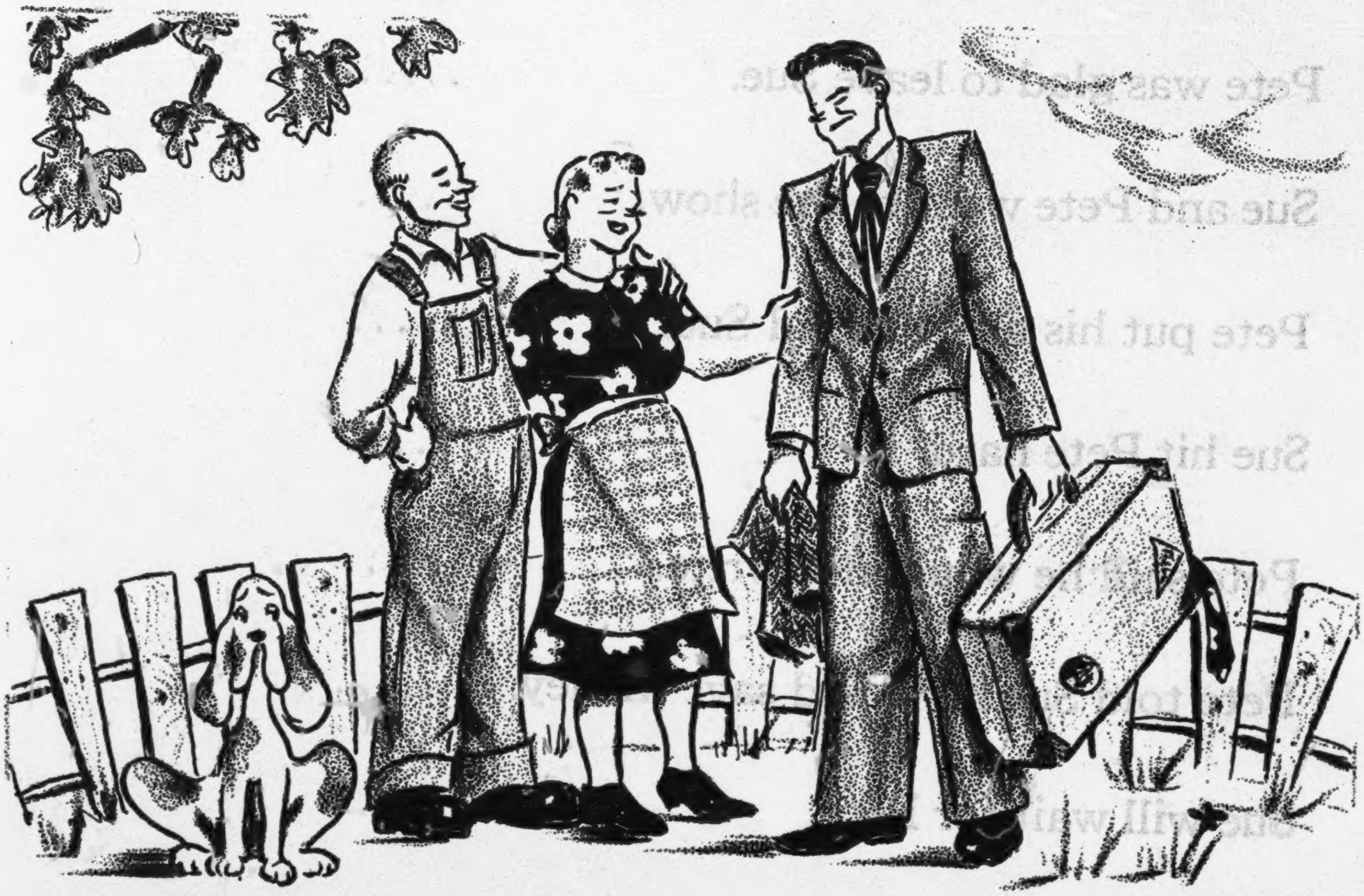
Pete said he would not write. .....

Pete told Sue he would save money. .....

Sue will wait for Pete. .....

Chapter 9

PETE AND BOB SHOVE OFF



Mr. Brown was willing to have Pete go to the Army.

Pete was ready to get started.

Soon the day arrived for the buddies to leave.

Pete had worked hard helping his father.

The corn was all in the barn.

Mr. Brown said, "I am glad you are going to have this fine chance."

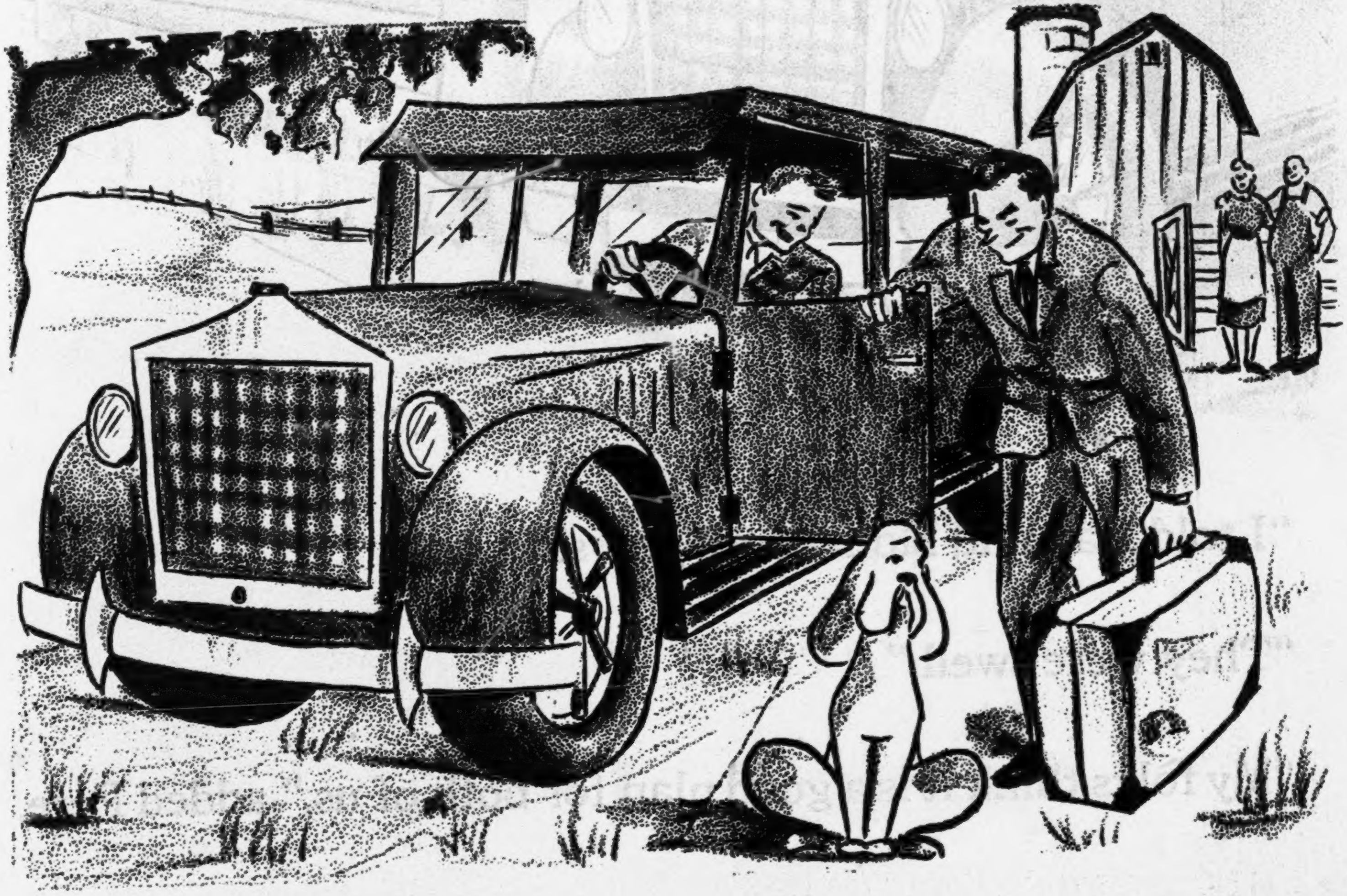
Pete's mother added, "We will miss you, son.

Come home when you can."

I'll write to you often," Pete told his mother.

Pete said goodbye to his folks as Bob drove up in his car.

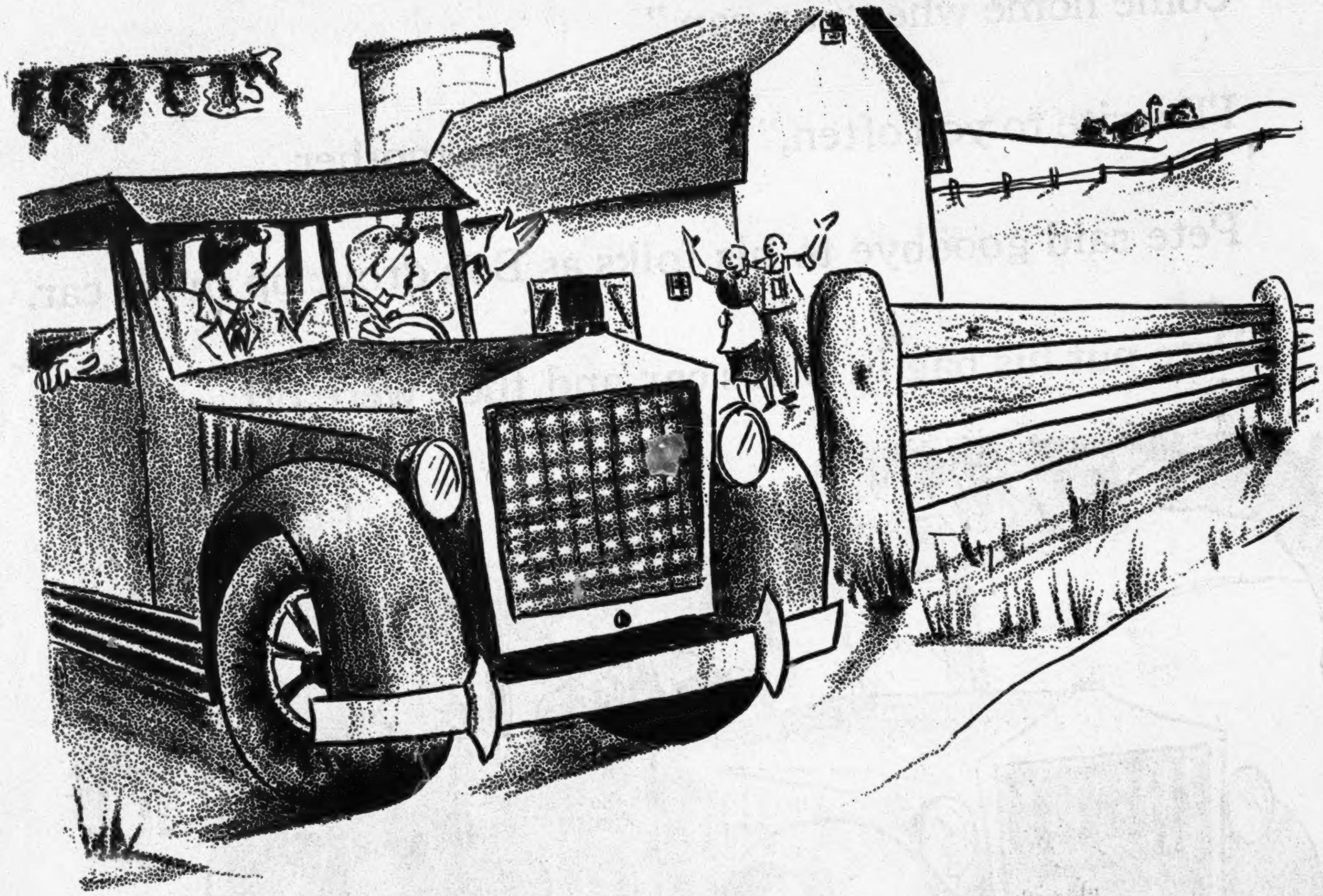
Pete put his bag in Bob's car and they were off.



Pete said, "Sue wants to go to the station with us."

"Fine. I thought she would," said Bob.

The buddies drove away from the Brown farm.



"I told Dad and Mom goodbye," said Bob.

"They were swell."

"My folks think it is a good plan for both of us," added Pete.

Sue was waiting when the buddies drove up.

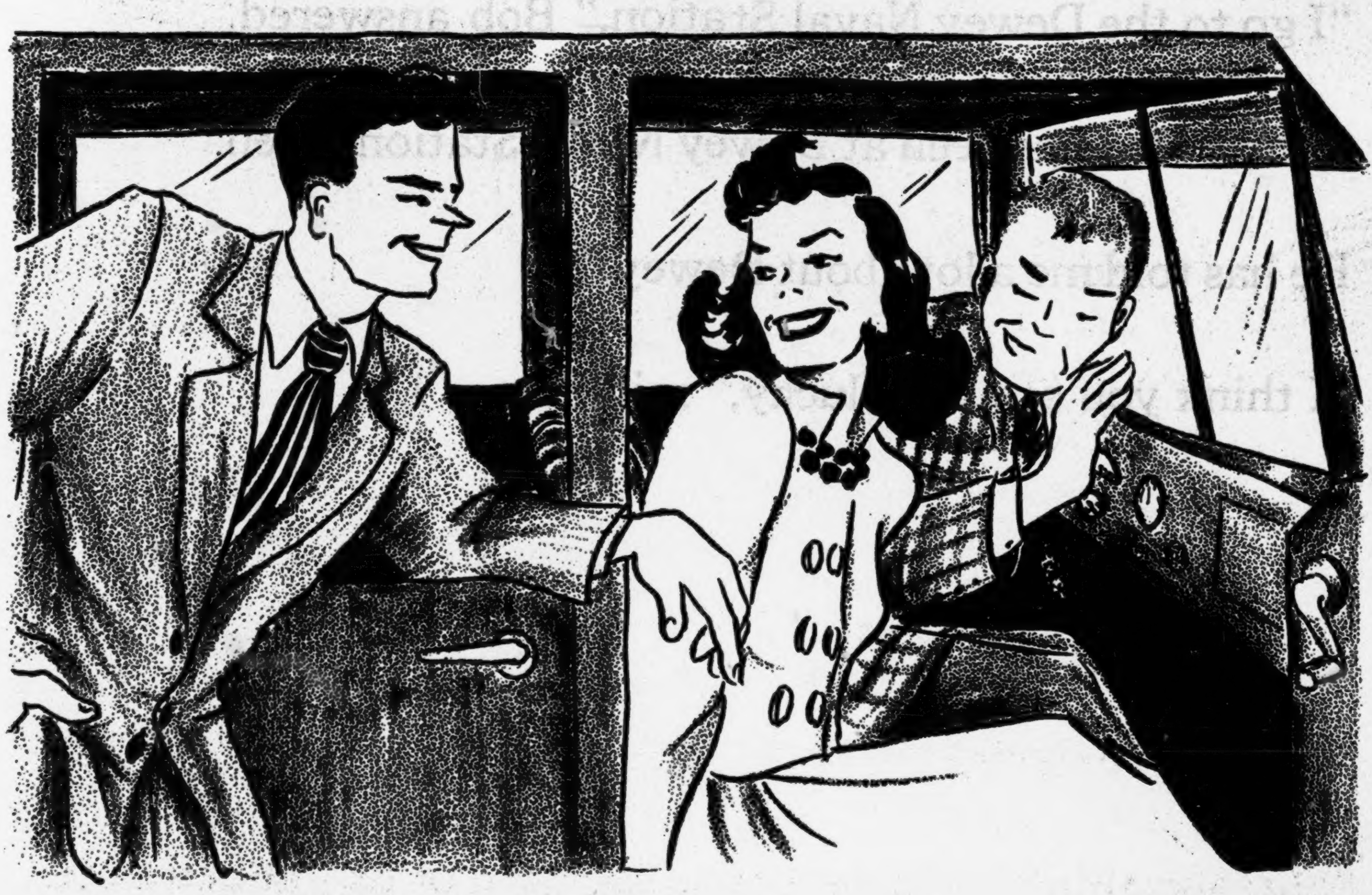
She looked beautiful to Pete.

"I'm coming back often," said Pete to Bob.

Pete called, "Let's go, Sue. We don't have much time."

"O.K. Pete, I'm ready,' answered Sue.

"Hi, sailor," said Sue to Bob as she got in the car.



Pete's orders had arrived the week before.

He was to report to Camp Allen.

"Will you like Camp Allen, Pete?" asked Sue.

"I think so," said Pete.

"Tim Samson told me it was a good camp."

"Where do you report, Bob?" asked Sue.

"I go to the Dewey Naval Station," Bob answered.

"Uncle Ned has been at Dewey Naval Station often.

He has told me a lot about Dewey."

"I think you are both lucky," said Sue.

Sue, Pete, and Bob were soon at the railroad station.

"Five minutes until train time!" said Pete.

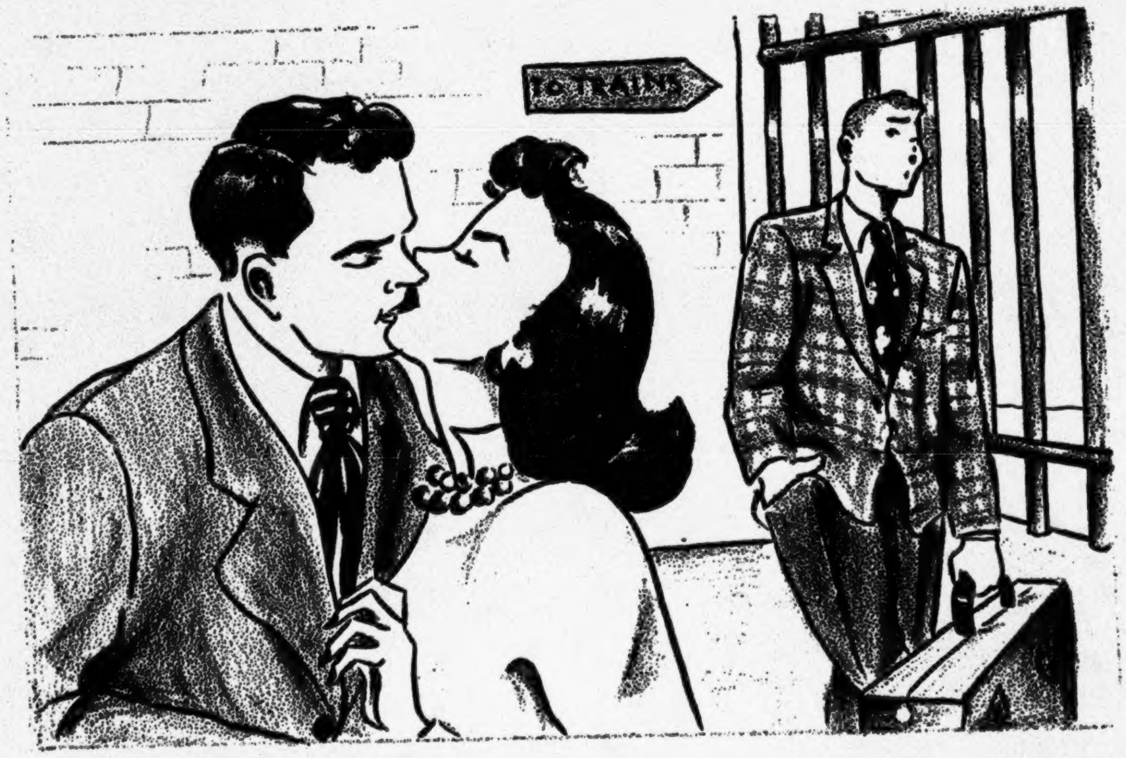
"When will you see each other?" asked Sue.

"When I get a furlough and Bob gets a leave," answered Pete.

"It is time to get on the train. Goodbye, Sue," said Bob as he picked up the bags.

"Goodbye, honey. I will miss you," said Pete to Sue.

He kissed her goodbye and ran for the train.



Answer Pete or Sue or Bob.

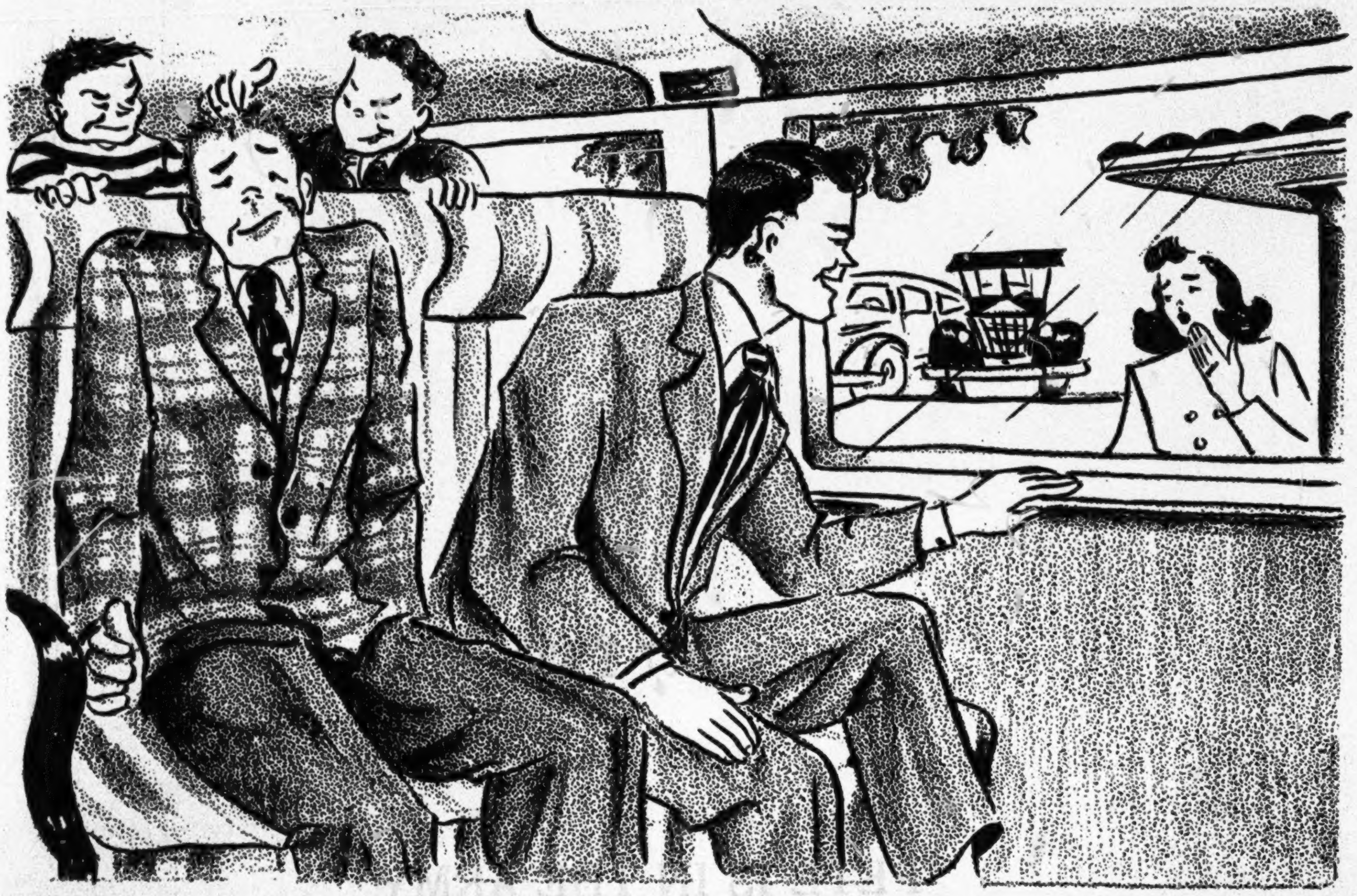
1. Who is going to Dewey Naval Station? .....
2. Who is going to stay home? .....
3. Which of the buddies helped on the farm? .....
4. What is the name of Pete's girl? .....
5. Whose uncle is in the Navy? .....
6. Who is going to Camp Allen? .....
7. Who drove the car? .....
8. Who kissed Sue goodbye? .....

PART TWO

PETE IS IN THE ARMY

Chapter 10

PETE ARRIVES AT CAMP ALLEN



"Army and Navy, here we come!" said Bob, as the train left Rivertown.

"I was sorry to leave Sue," answered Pete.

"Don't get soft, you will see her again," smiled Bob.

"Sue said she would wait.

I am going to marry that girl, Bob," said Pete.

"Sue is a great girl," said Bob.

"She was swell about your going away."

Pete and Bob rode on the train all night.

They had not slept on a train before.

Bob slept in the upper berth.

Pete slept in the lower berth.

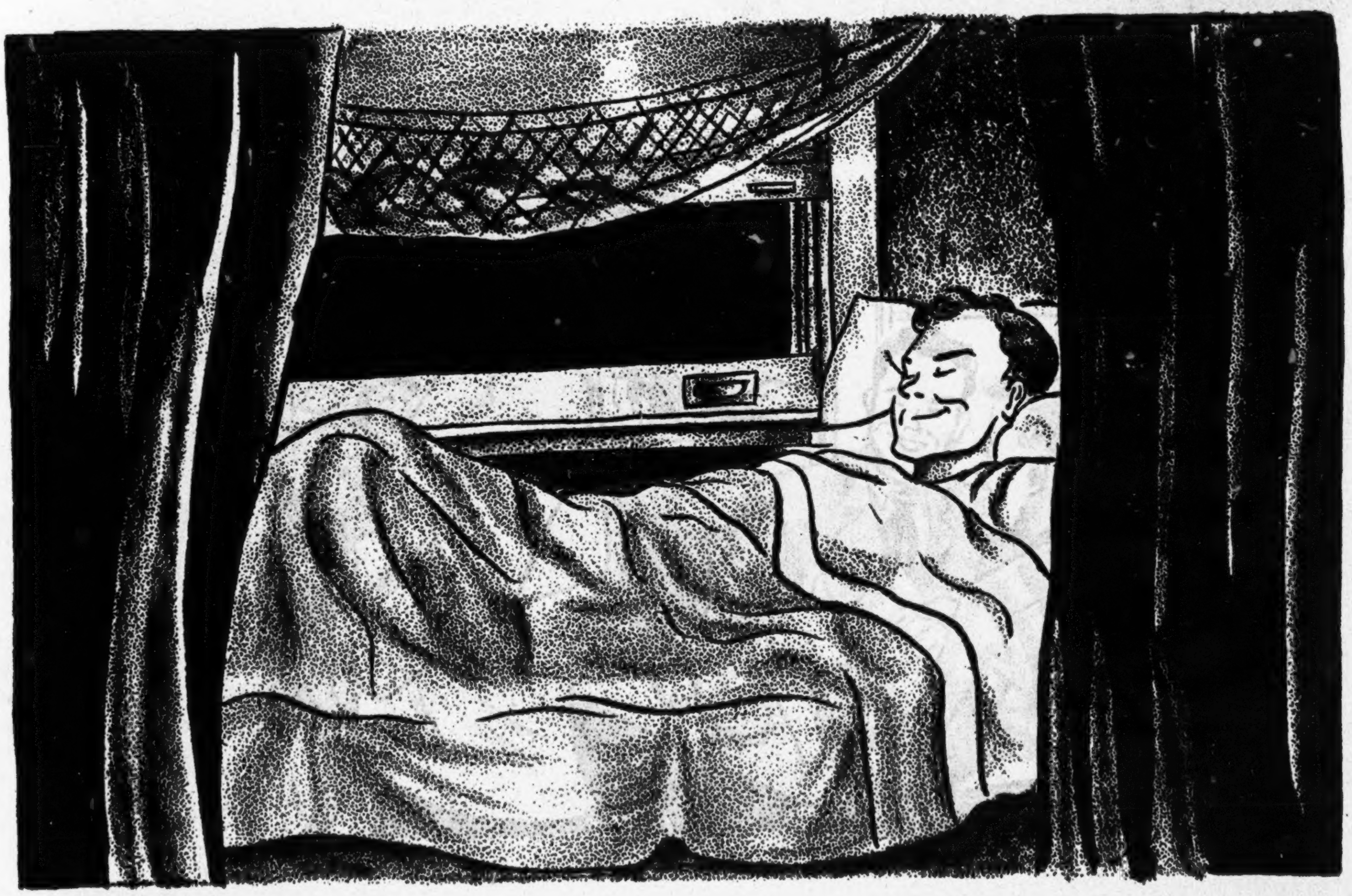
Pete laughed at Bob in the morning.

Bob had a hard time dressing in his upper berth.

Bob needed to change trains at Grand Junction.

Pete said, "We have time for breakfast before you change trains, Bob."

"I'm hungry," said Bob.



At breakfast, the buddies made plans.

Pete and Bob planned to meet in Washington, D. C.

They hoped it would be soon.

"We will have lots to tell each other when we meet in Washington," said Bob.

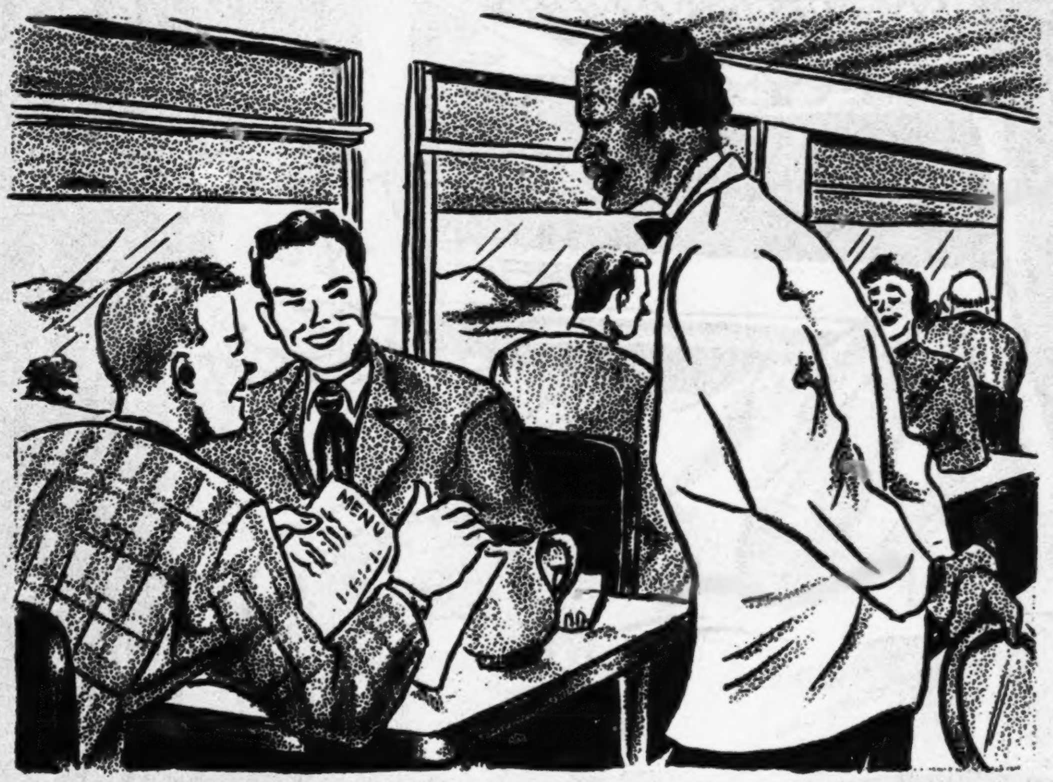
"Let's write often," said Pete.

Soon after breakfast the conductor called, "Grand Junction, next stop."

"Good luck, buddy," said Pete as Bob got his bag.

"So long, Pete," answered Bob.

"I'll be seeing you."



The train was dull after Bob left.

Pete was glad when lunch time came.

He had no one to talk with.

Pete thought of many things.

He thought of his life back home.

He thought about Sue.

He thought about his mother and father on the farm.

Brownie would miss hunting with Pete and Bob.

Maybe next year he could be home for hunting season.

Pete wondered what Camp Allen would be like.

He knew the training would be hard.

But he thought he could make good.

Pete wanted to be a good soldier.

Pete was tired.

He felt hot and dirty.

He did not look neat.

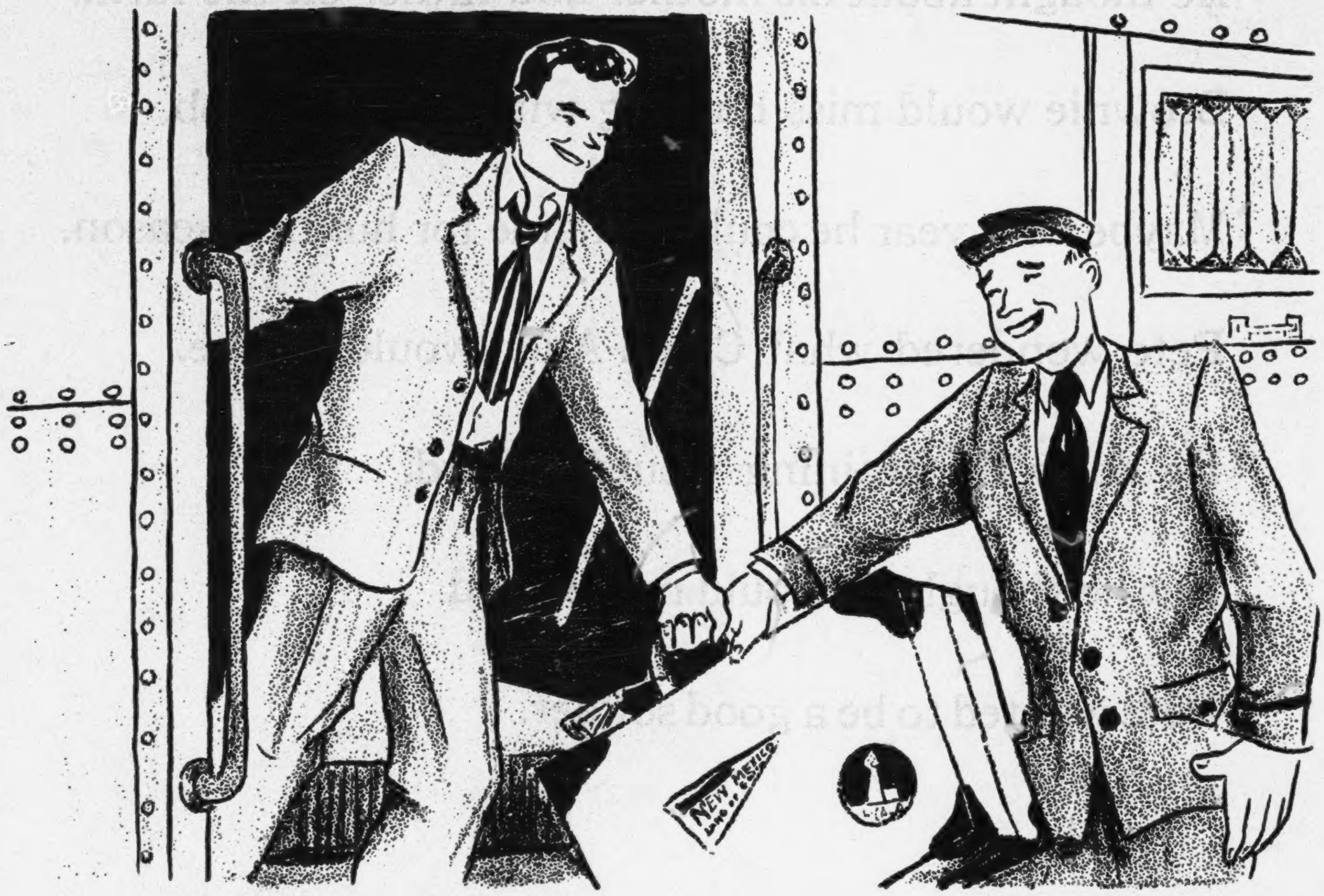
Pete hoped the train would soon reach Camp Allen.

Just then the conductor called, “Next stop, Camp Allen.”

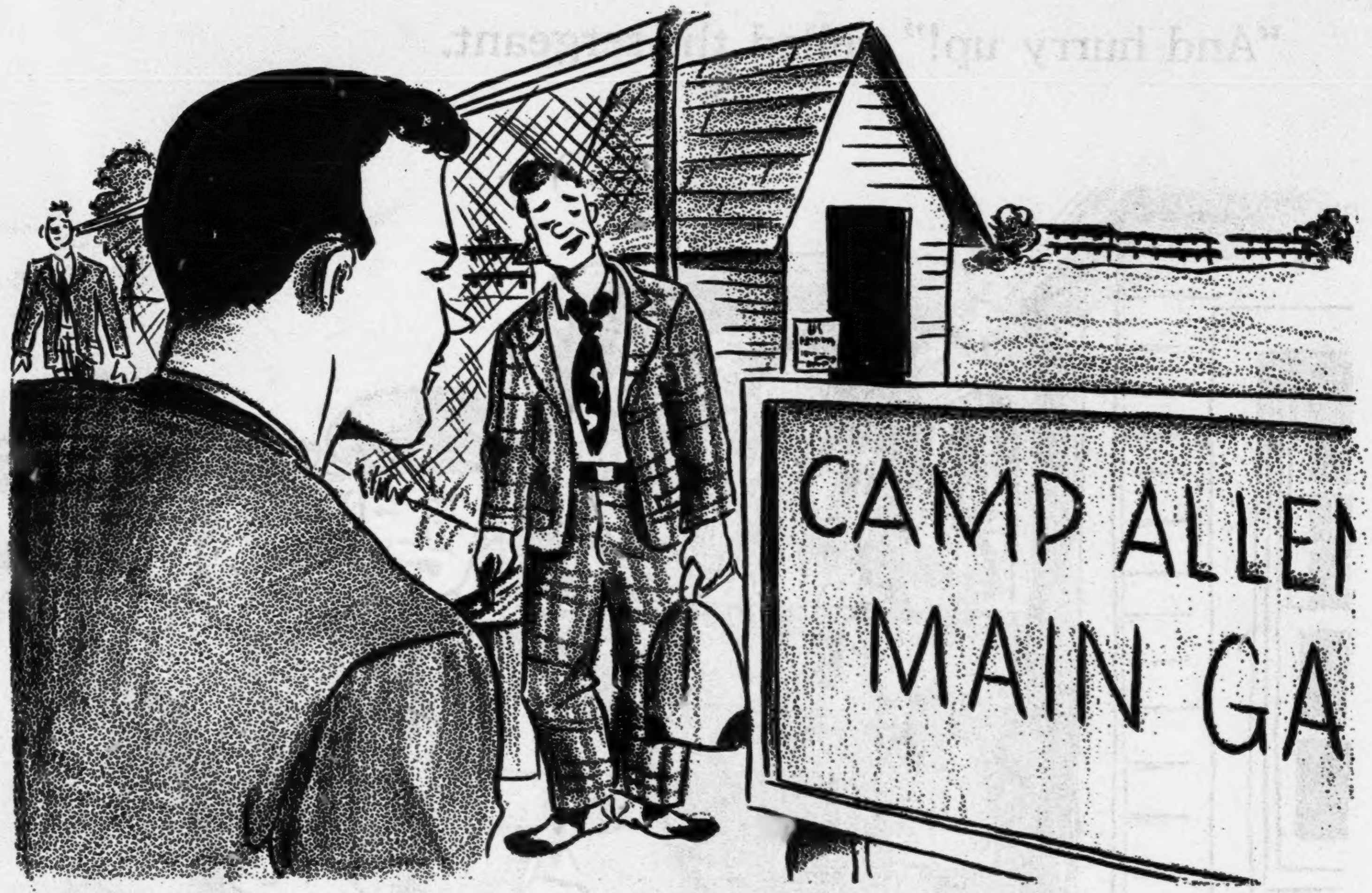
Pete grabbed his bag and waited for the train to stop.

“I’ll be a soldier soon!” he thought.

Pete stepped off the train ready for his new life.

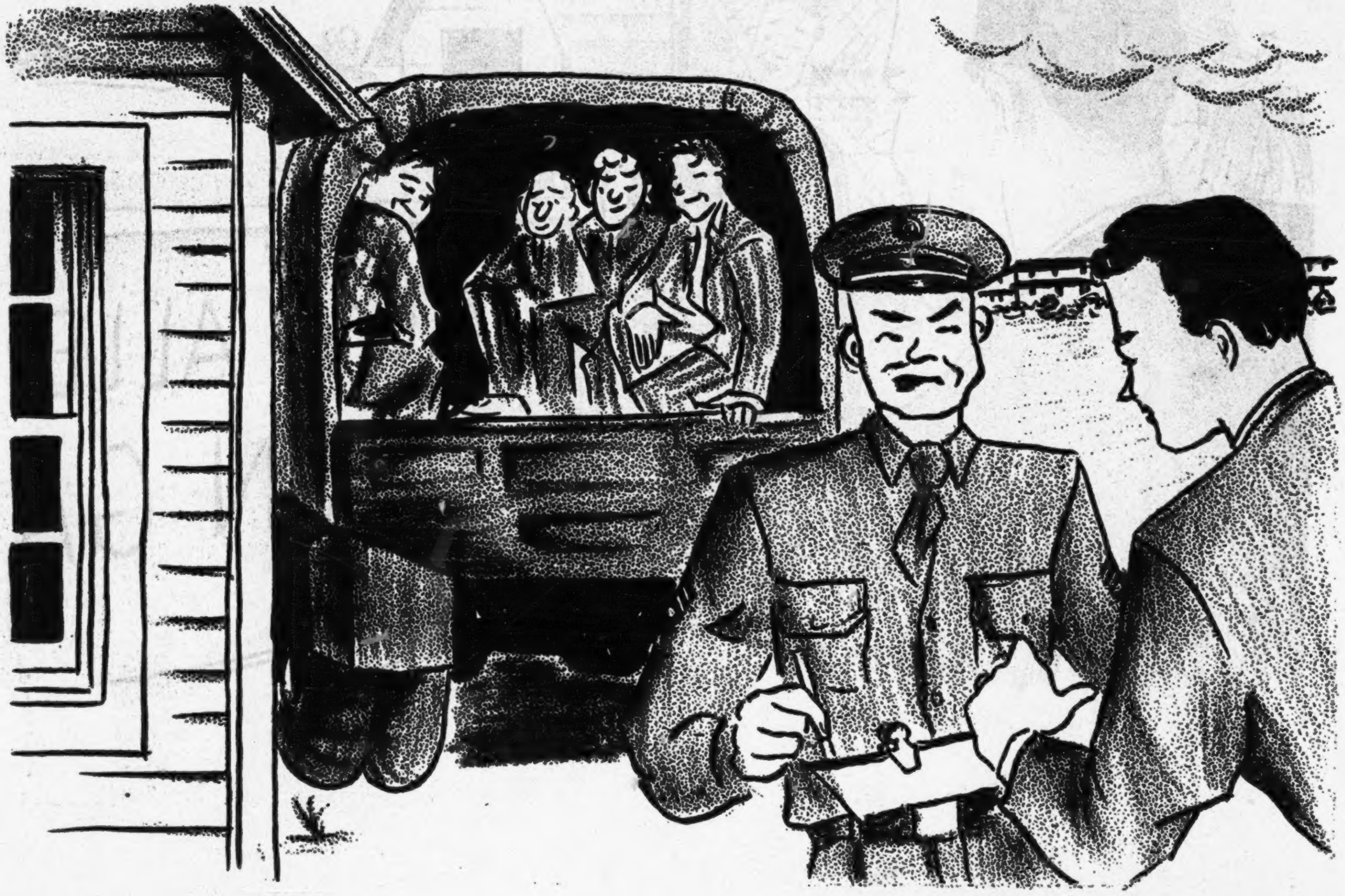


Pete wondered if someone would meet him.
He did not see any soldiers.
Looking around, Pete saw a sign.
"Camp Allen. Main Gate," it said.



Pete started to follow the arrow.
He saw several other men going the same way.
All of the men were going to Camp Allen.

The men soon came to the main gate of Camp Allen.
A sergeant was waiting for them at the gate.
He said, "You men fall in at the right of the gate.
Give me your names and then climb into that truck."
Pete thought, "Boy, this is it!"
"And hurry up!" yelled the sergeant.



Chapter 11

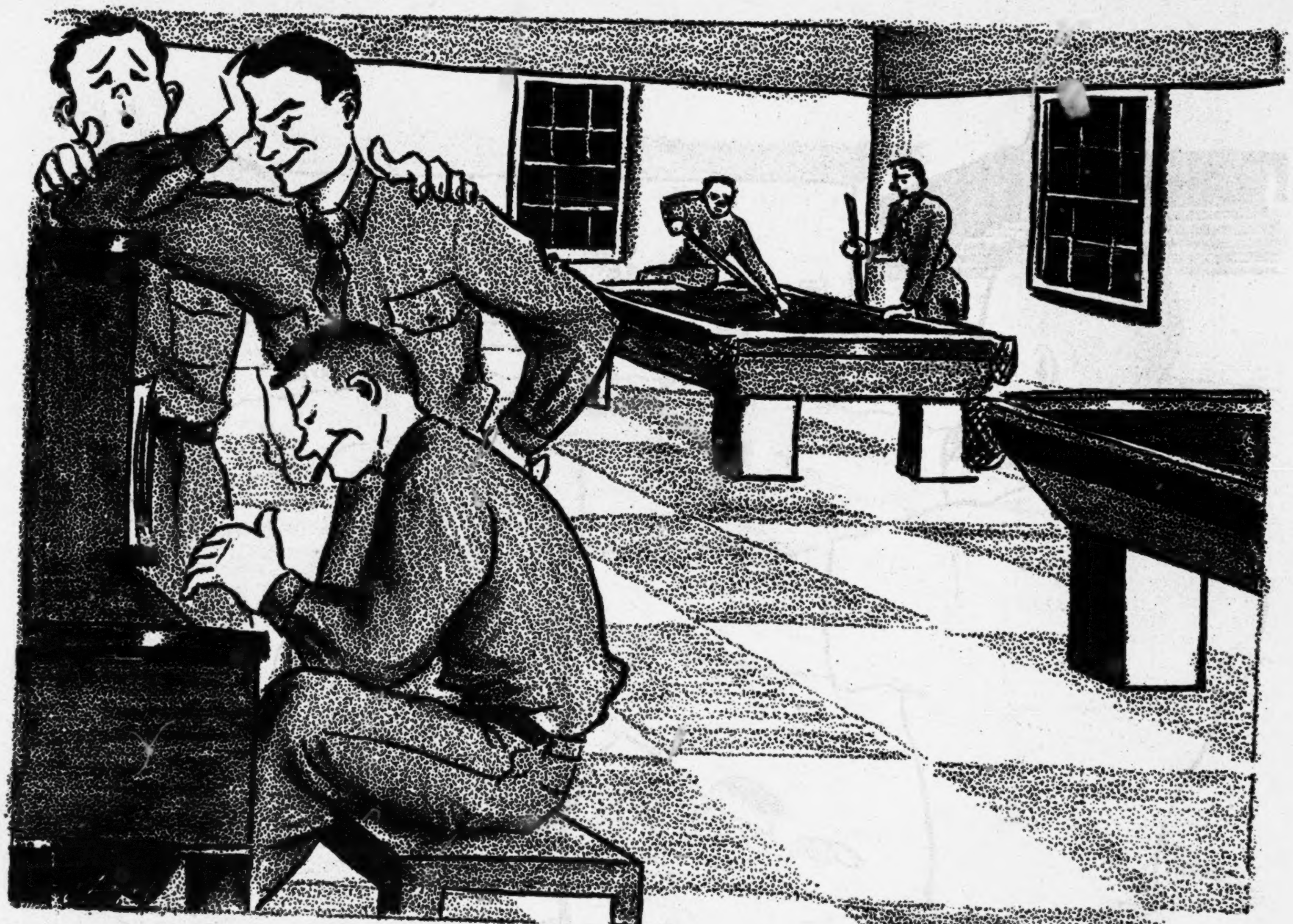
THE NEW SOLDIERS SEE CAMP ALLEN

The truck rolled away from the gate.

The new men looked about them.

The sergeant sat with the men to tell them about the camp.

"That big building is a recreation hall," said the sergeant.



"We call the recreation hall the 'rec' hall," added the sergant.

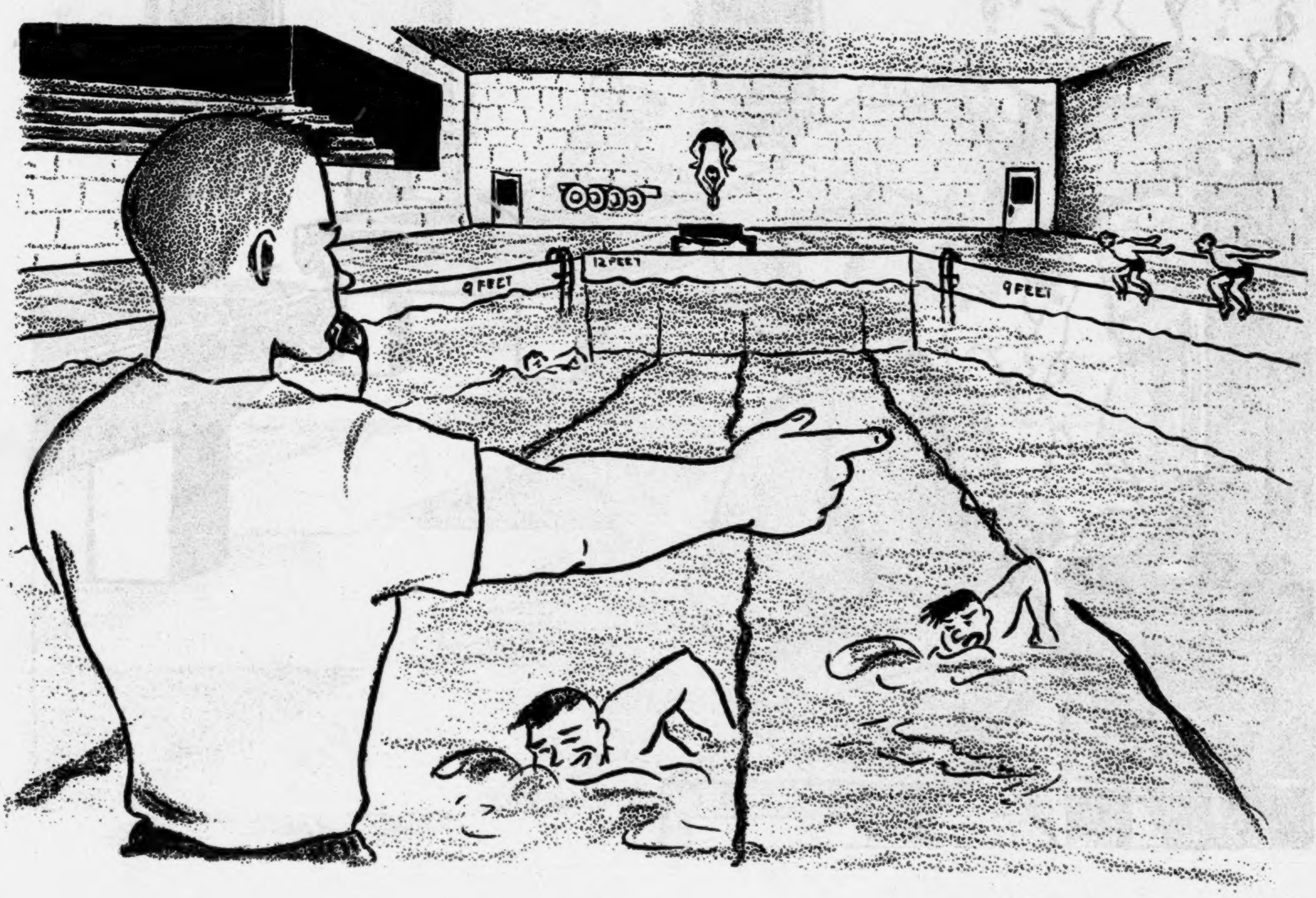
"In the 'rec' hall," the sergeant explained, "are a basketball court and a place to box. Over there is a swimming pool."

"When can we use the 'rec' hall?" asked one of the men.

"Every night, unless you are on duty," said the sergeant.

Pete said, "Gee, I wish I could swim."

The sergeant smiled, "Don't worry, you will have a chance to learn."



"Over here is the hospital area," said the sergeant.

"The Army has good doctors and nurses.

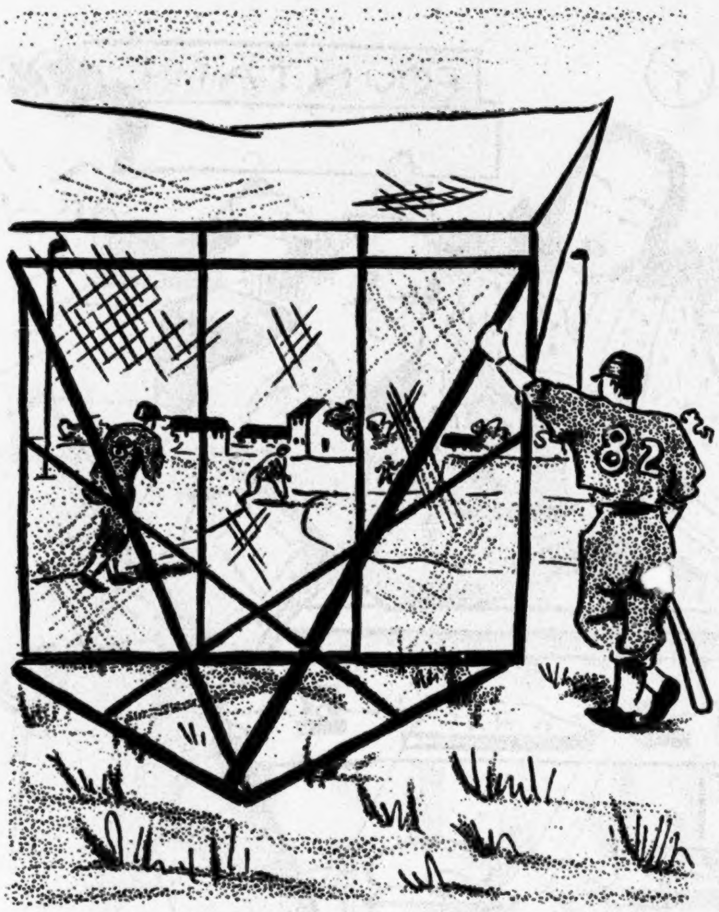
The men are given good care."

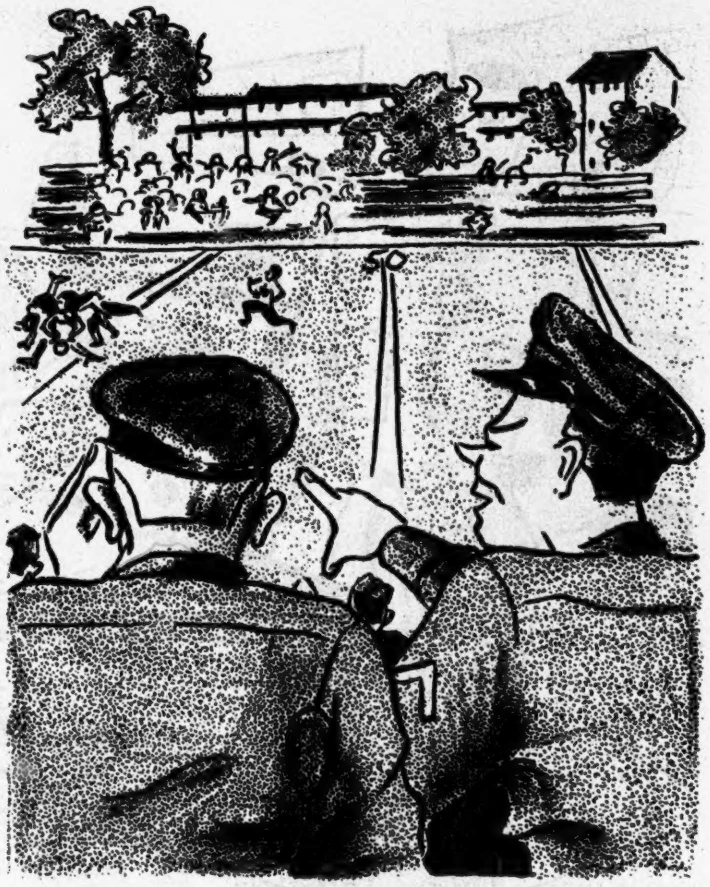
"Look at that ball diamond," said one of the men.

"Yes," added Pete, "and there is a football field."

"Will we have time to play ball?" a man asked.

"Yes The Army wants you to be in good physical condition," answered the sergeant.





"Post Exchange," said one of the men.

He was reading a sign on a large building.

"What is the 'Post Exchange'?" he asked the sergeant.

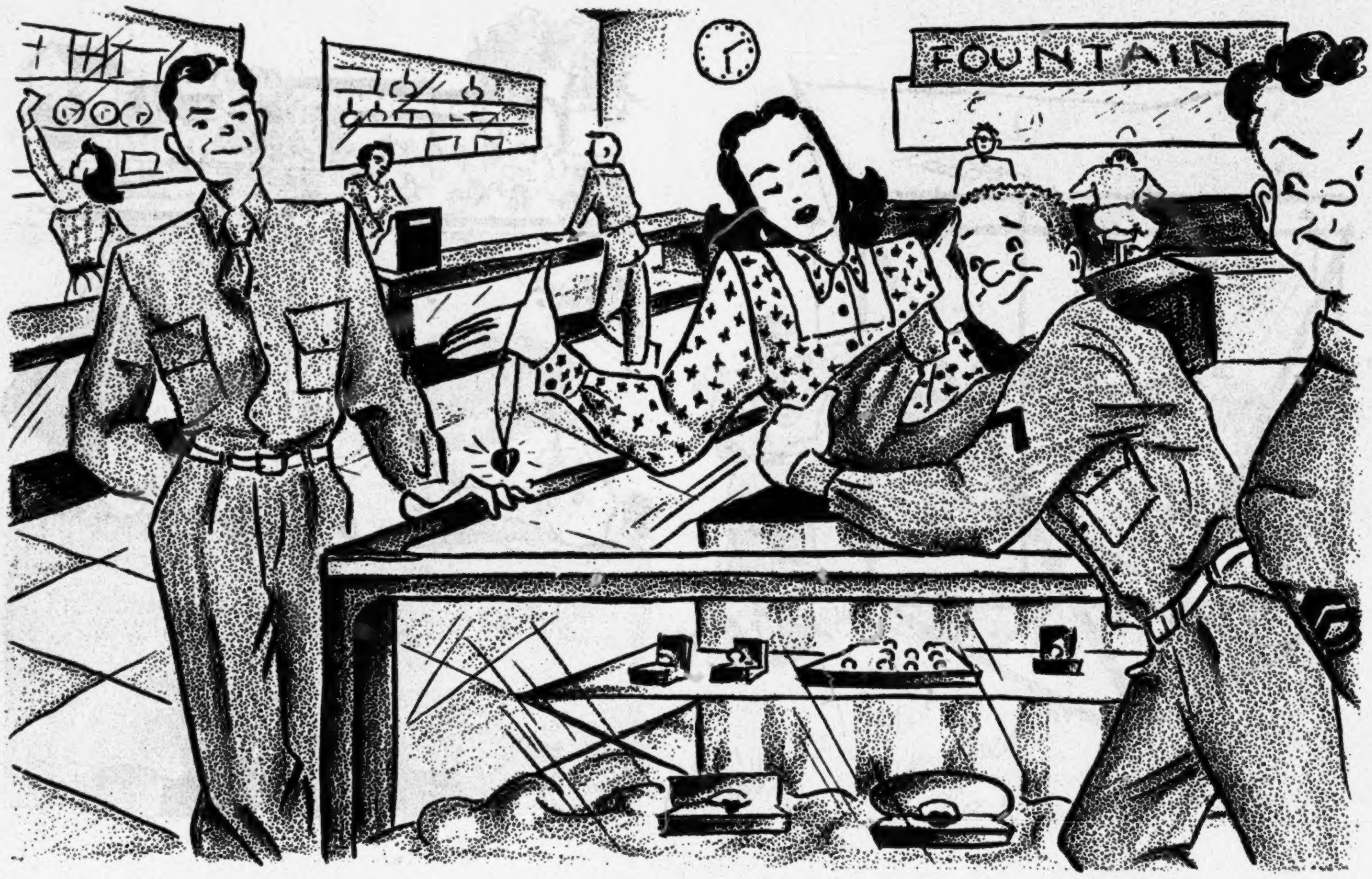
"We call it the PX," said the sergeant.

"It is a store the Army runs for the men."

"I'm going to get me a gallon of ice cream," said a fat, happy fellow.

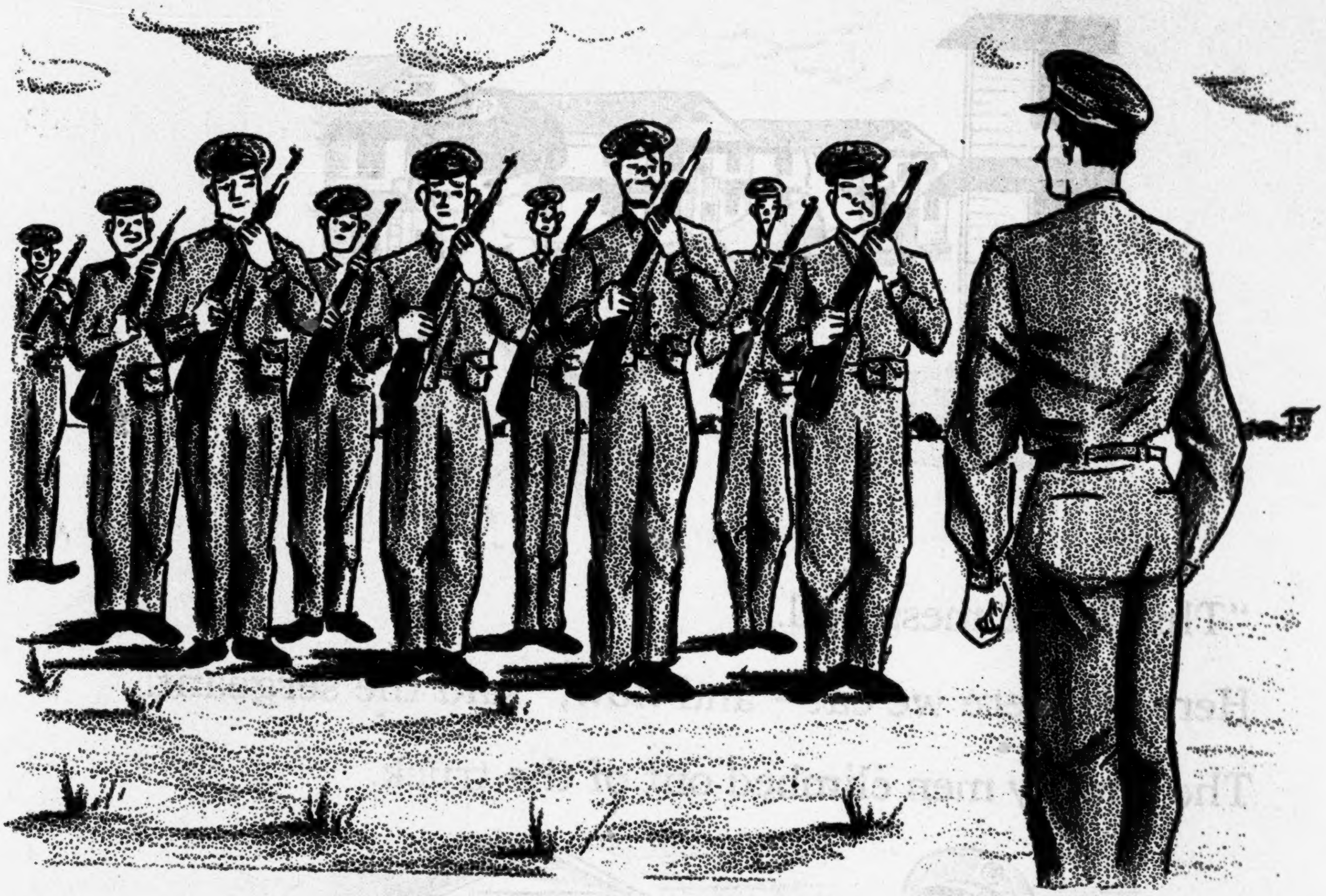
"Ice cream will make you fatter, Tex," someone said.

Pete thought he would like Tex.



"And there you will lose some of that fat, Tex," laughed the sergeant.

He was pointing to a large drill field.



"Over there is the rifle range," the sergeant explained.

"Can any of you men shoot?"

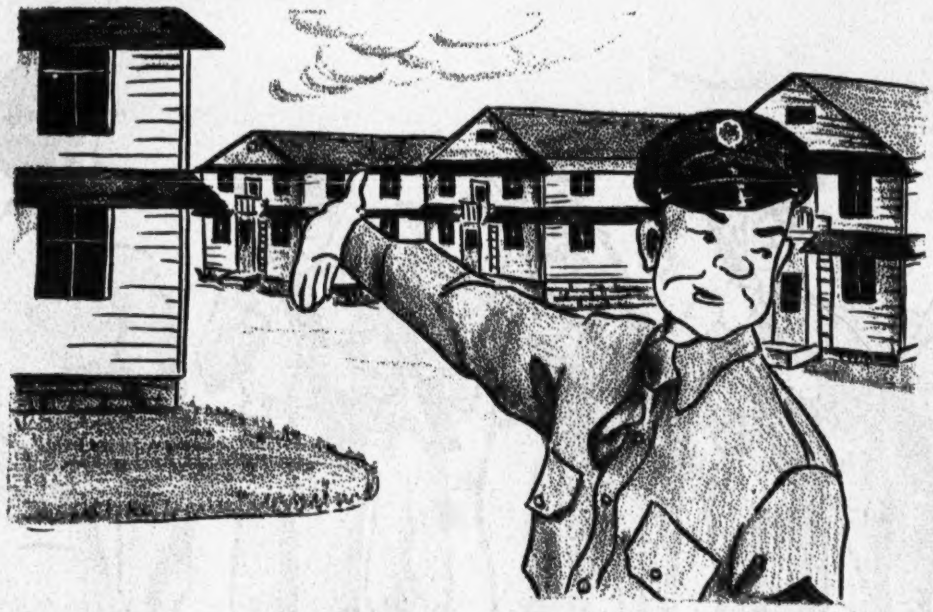
Pete thought, "Oh, boy! that's one thing I can do."

But he did not say he could shoot.

Tex said, "That's my meat, Sergeant."

"And you men will live in buildings like those," said the sergeant.

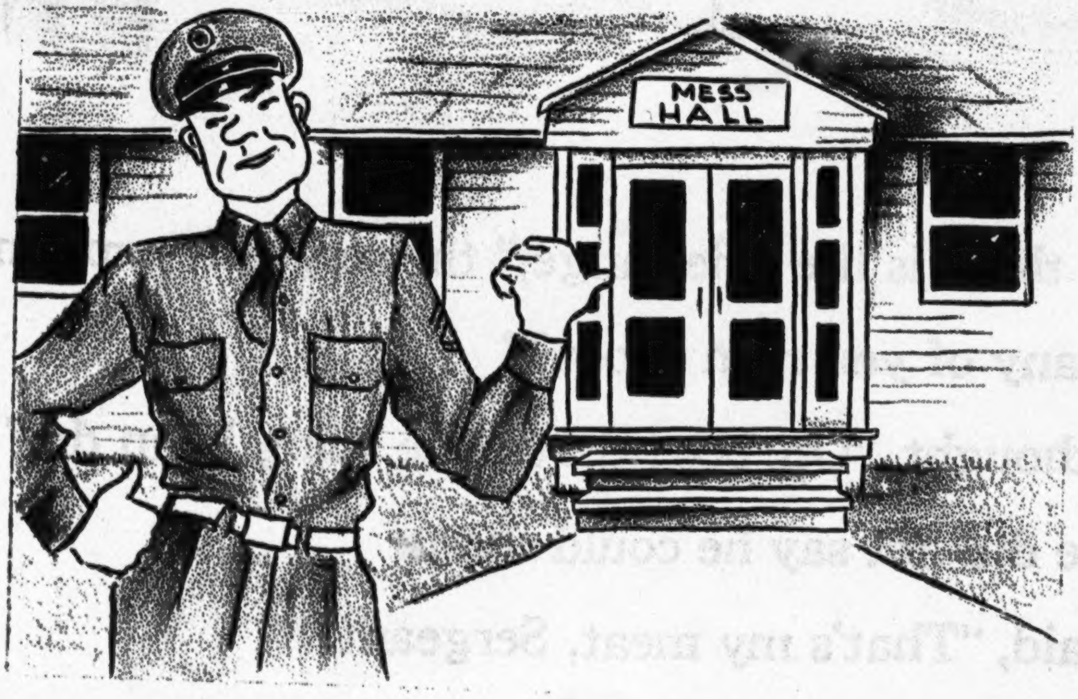
He was looking at a long row of barracks.



"This is the mess hall.

Here is where we eat – and now," said the sergeant.

The hungry men climbed out of the truck.



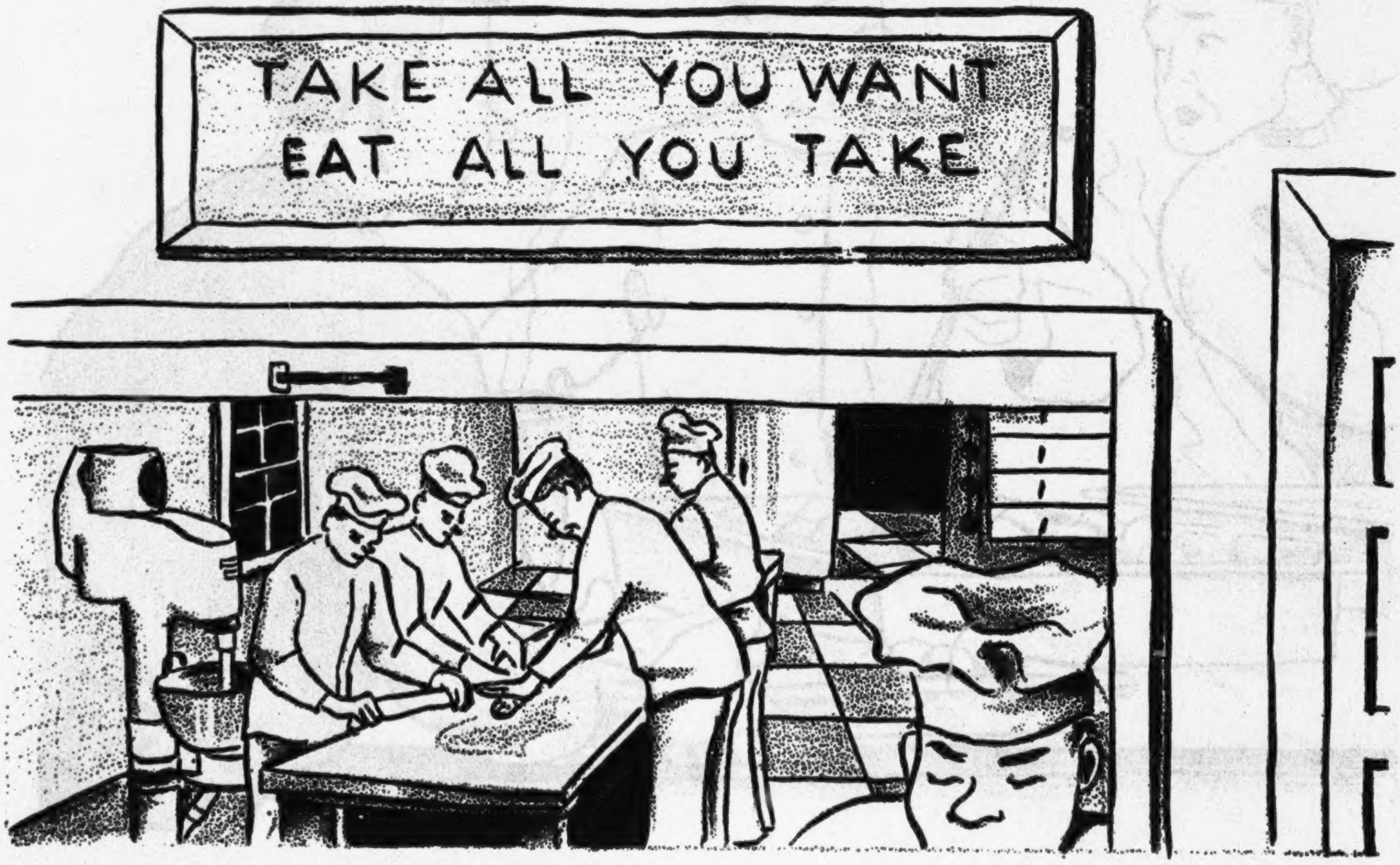
Chapter 12

THE FIRST ARMY MEAL

Pete had heard many stories about Army food. His dad had been in World War I.

Mr. Brown had joked with Pete about the food. World War II soldiers said the food was good. Now Pete would find out for himself.

Pete followed the sergeant into the mess hall. As Pete went in, he saw this sign:



The men lined up to be served.

"Boy, those steaks look like home!" said Tex.

"Mashed potatoes and gravy!" said another.

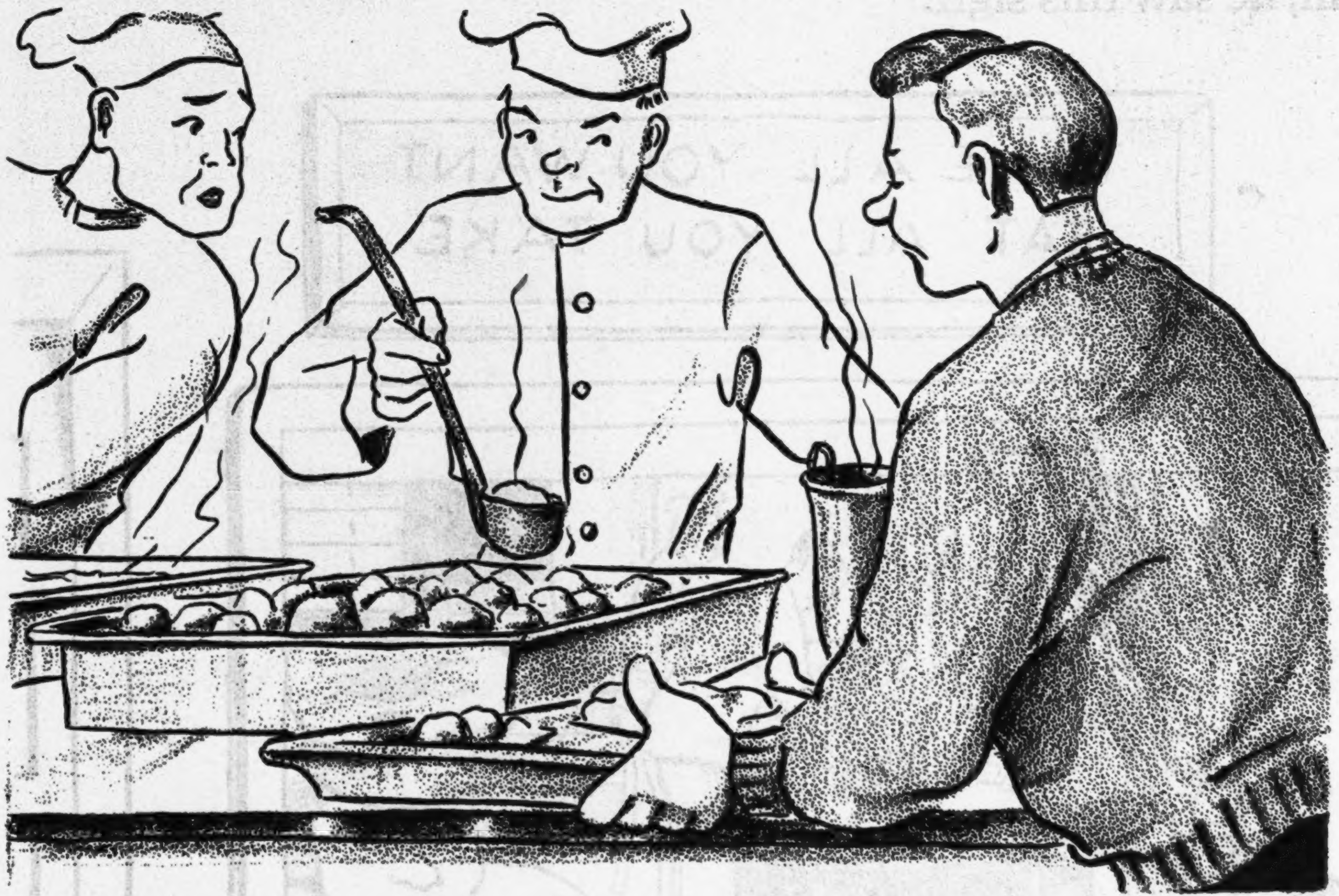
"Those potatoes come from Idaho!" said a tall, thin fellow.

"How do you know?" asked Tex.

"I come from Idaho, where the best potatoes in the country are raised," said the thin fellow.

"You need potatoes to fatten you up, Idaho," laughed Tex.

"Idaho is a good name for him," added Pete.



"Steak with mashed potatoes and gravy is a good start. And those look like peas from Ohio," said Pete.

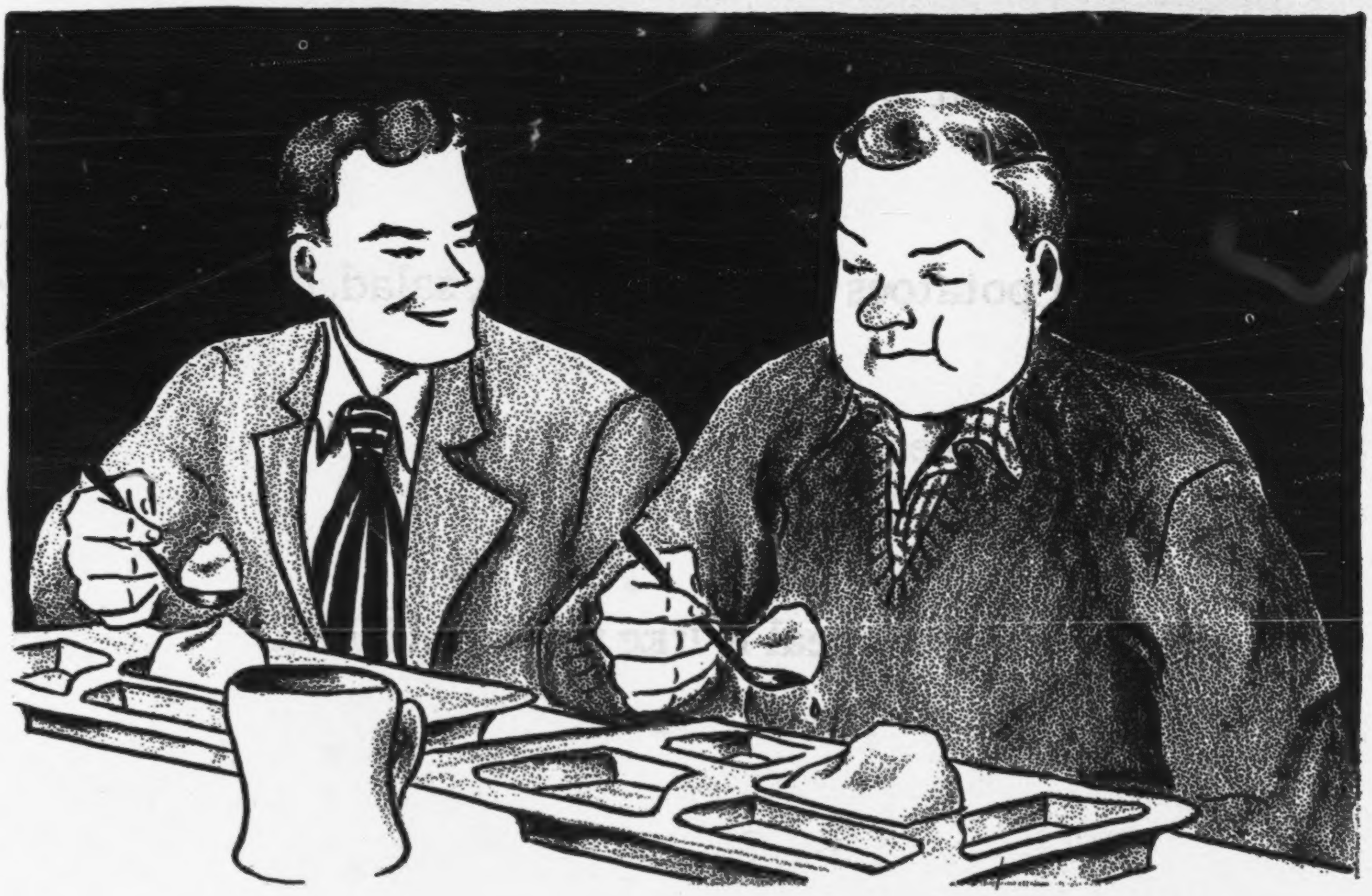
"I hope we get ice cream," said Tex.

"You better take some peas," answered Idaho.

The sergeant said, "Get some of that salad, men."

Bread, butter, and milk came next.

Tex found ice cream at the end of the line.



"That steak is good!" said Tex.

"Idaho, your potatoes are O.K.," he added.

"I like the peas," answered Idaho.

"This salad is just right," said another.

The men finished their first meal in the Army.

Pete said, "That was a swell meal. We had:

steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, salad, bread and butter, milk, and ice cream."

"I wonder if every meal is like this?" said Tex.

"Men, every meal will not be like this one. But all your meals will be good," said the sergeant.

He explained, "The Army buys the best food that can be bought.

The food is cooked by well-trained men.

Army cooks make the food taste good."

Tex said, "Boy, I ate too much."

Pete laughed. "You should have given Idaho your ice cream."

"Come on, men," said the sergeant.

"We have to find some bunks."

Chapter 13

PETE'S FIRST BARRACKS

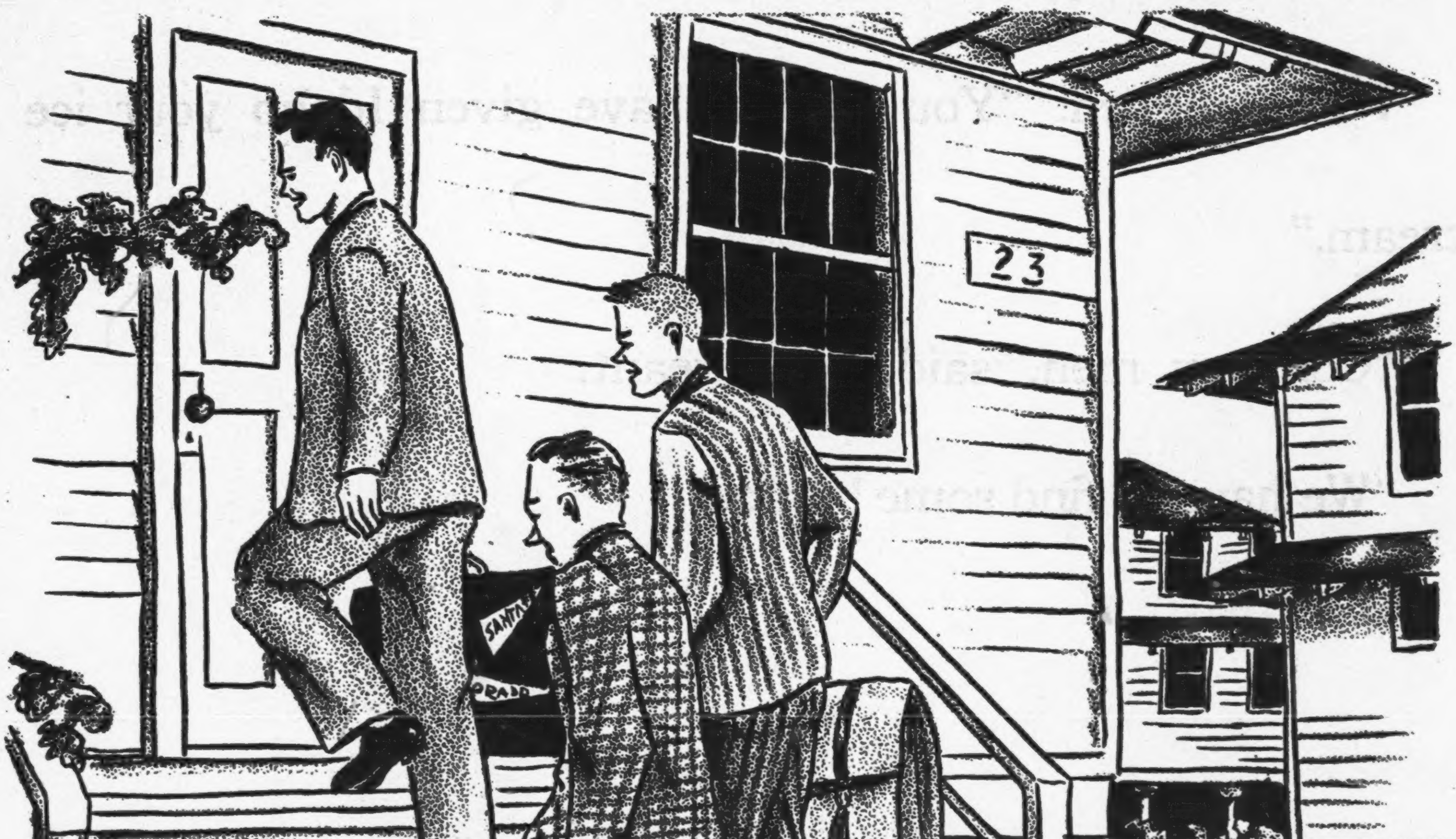
The truck drove up at Barracks Number 23.

"All out, men," said the sergeant.

"This is where you will live."

The men followed him into the barracks.

There another sergeant took charge of them.



The new sergeant lined the men up.

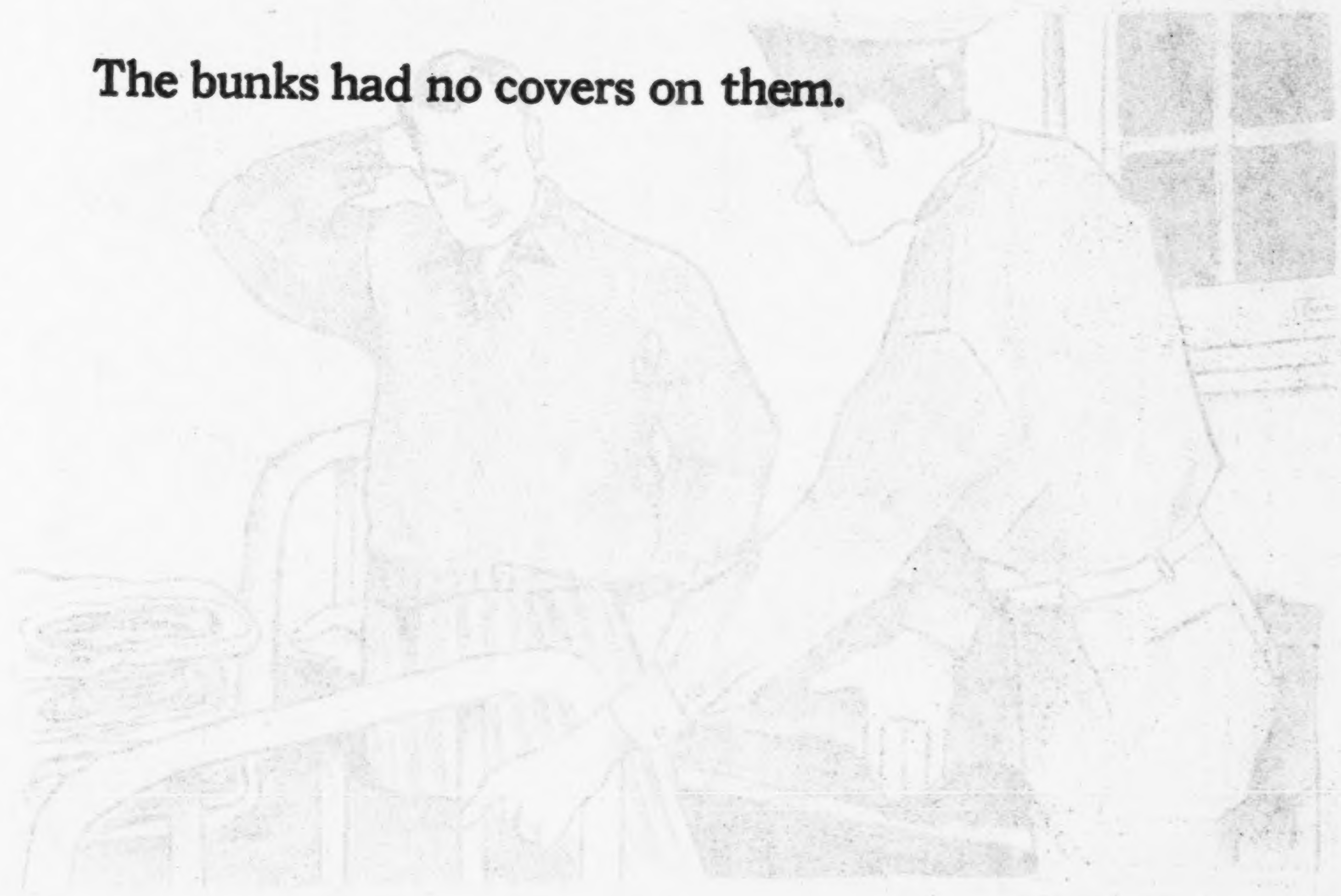
"I am Sergeant Hanna," he said.

"You men will be with me while you live in this barracks. If you try to do what I tell you, we will get along all right."

Sergeant Hanna then gave each man a bunk.

The barracks was clean and neat.

The bunks had no covers on them.



"Who is going to make my bunk?" asked Tex.

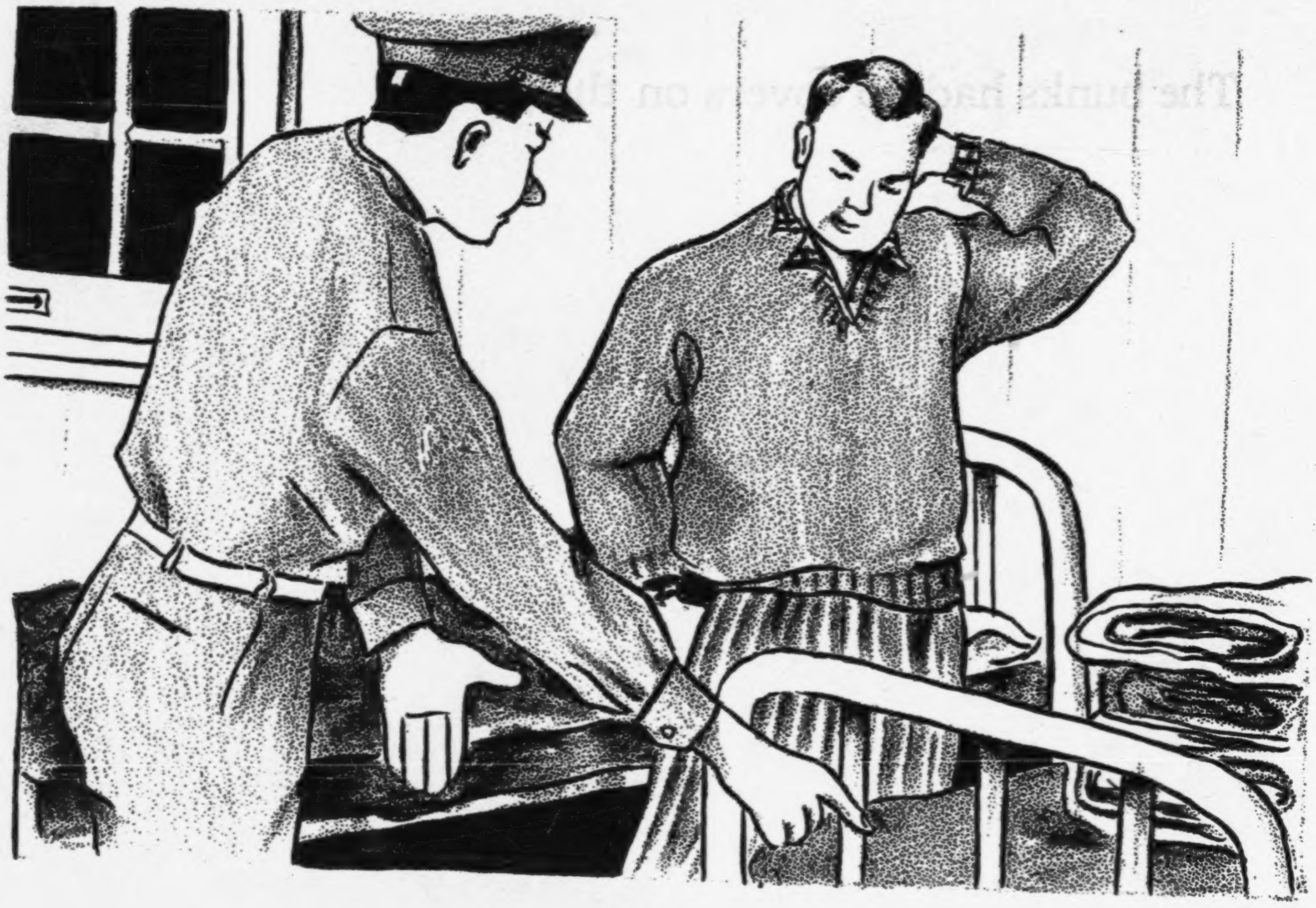
"You will find out soon!" answered Sergeant Hanna.

He detailed a private to take the men to the supply room.

Each man got two blankets, two sheets, and a pillow case.

The private showed the men how to fold their blankets.

Tex had trouble making a square corner with his sheets and blankets.



Pete, Tex, and Idaho were now buddies.

They were lucky.

Their bunks were in a row.

Before taps the men had time to talk.

Idaho told Pete and Tex about his father's farm in Idaho.

Pete said, "Our farm in Ohio is like that, but corn is our main crop."

"What do you do with the corn?" asked Idaho.

"We feed some of the corn to pigs. Most of our corn is sold for cash," Pete answered.

"Were you a cowboy, Tex" asked Pete.

"No," answered Tex.

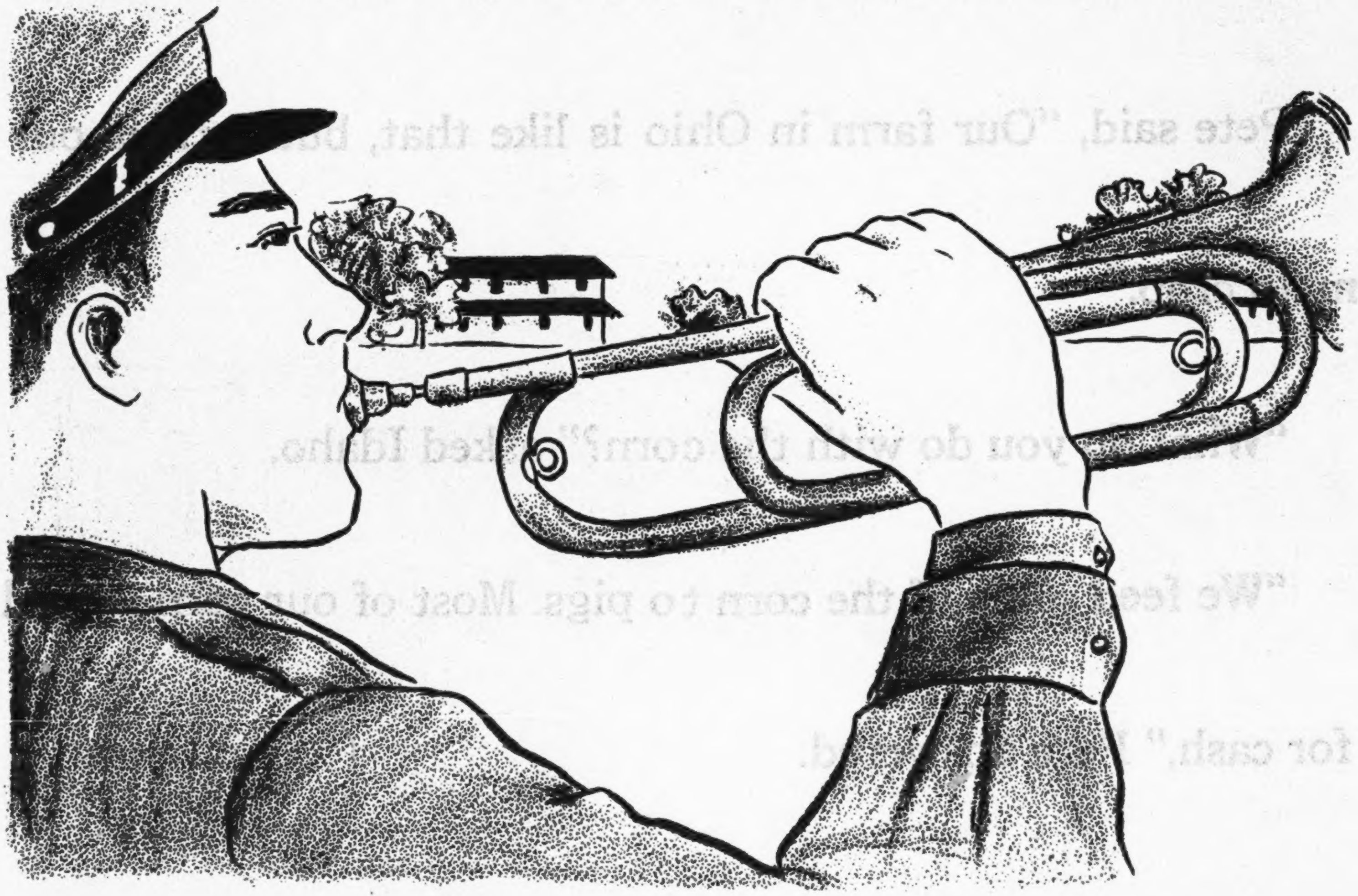
"I worked for an oil company in Dallas."

"A cowboy would not be as fat as Tex," laughed Idaho.

"Be quiet, you tall, thin bean pole," answered Tex.

Taps sounded and the men went to their bunks.

Pete found his bunk very soft and was soon asleep.



Chapter 14

PETE SEES THE DOCTOR

The men got up early the next morning.

"That bunk was all right," said Pete.

Tex added, "I slept O.K."

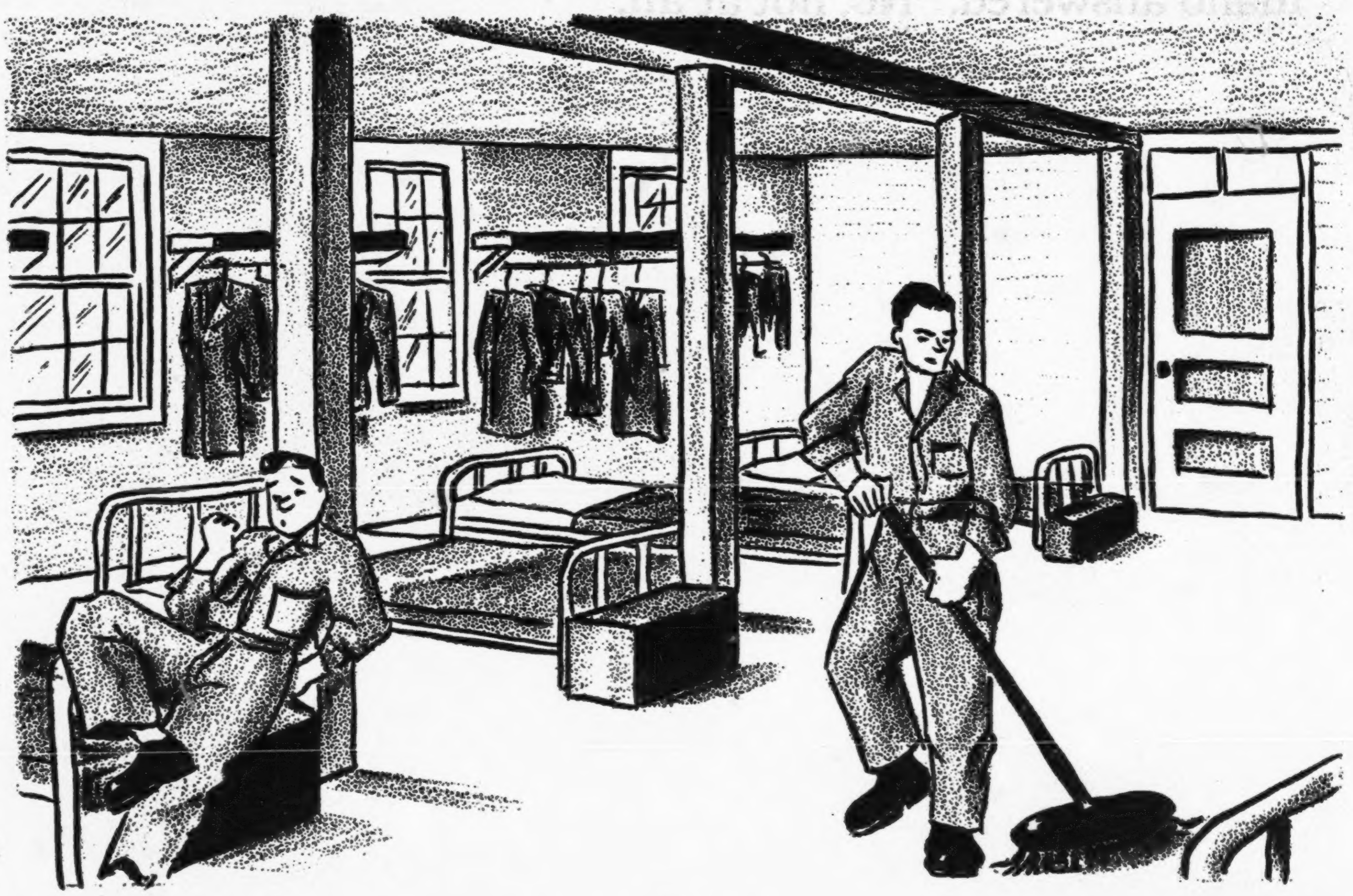
The new soldiers had a good breakfast.

After breakfast the men made up their bunks.

Then they cleaned the barracks.

Pete pushed a broom.

"Mom should see me now," he said.



"Hurry up, men," said Sergeant Hanna.

"You will see the doctor in the dispensary at eight o'clock."

"What will the doctor do?" asked one.

"There is nothing wrong with me!" said another.

The sergeant said, "The doctor will look you over."

"You will get shots, too."

The men talked about the big needle.

No one would say he was afraid.

Pete said to Idaho, "I have never had a shot.

Does the needle hurt?"

Idaho answered, "No, not at all."

A corporal met the man at the dispensary.

The corporal told them to take off their clothes.

First, he weighed the men.

Then, the corporal measured their height.

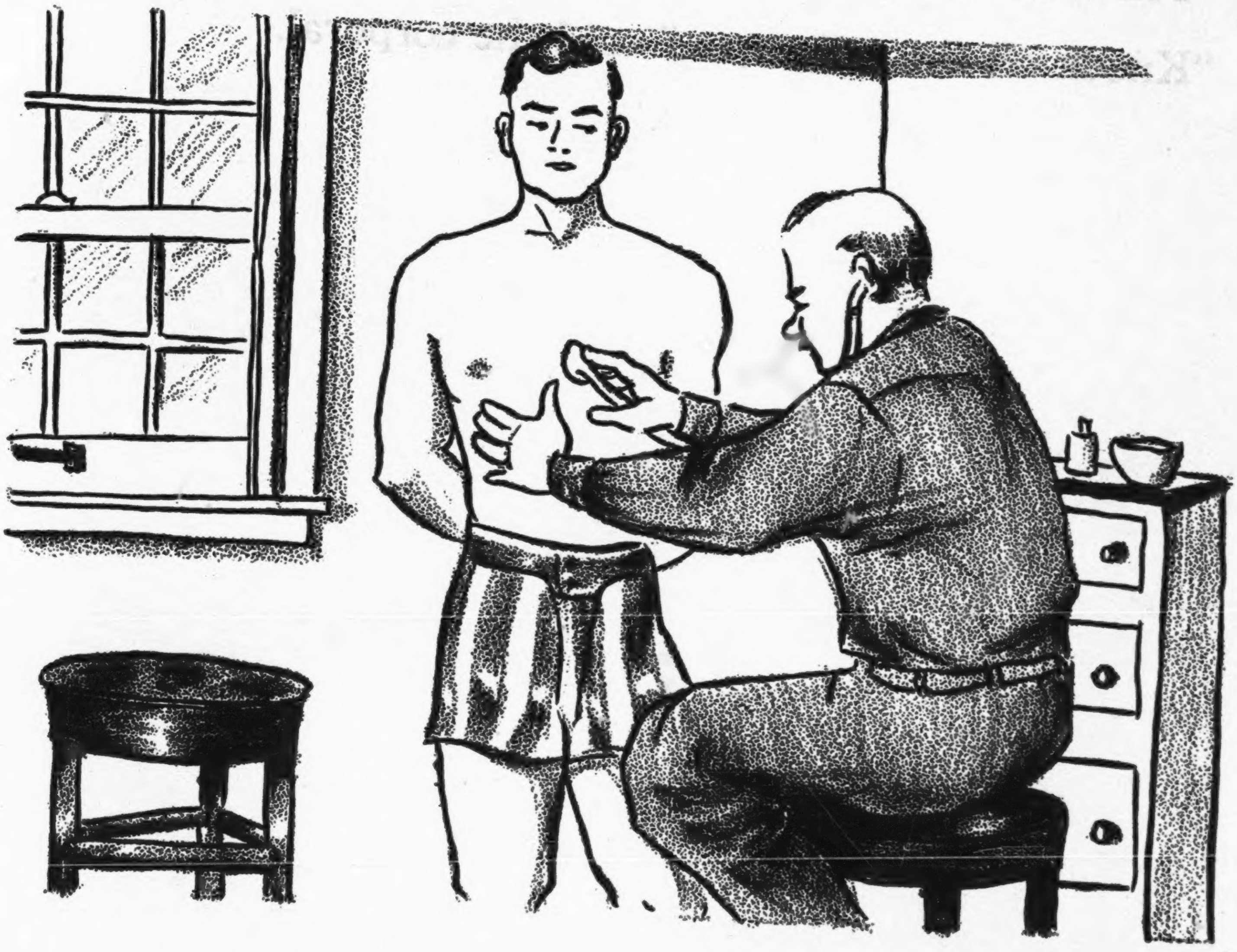
Tex was heavier than anyone.

Idaho was taller than anyone.

Then the men were taken to the doctor.

The doctor examined the men.

He looked each man over carefully.



The doctor said, "Line up the men for shots, Corporal."

The corporal answered, "Yes, sir."

"Line up over here, men."

Pete was first in line.

A sergeant gave the shots.

The needle hurt Pete very little.

"Nothing to it," said Tex from the end of the line.

"Wait and see, fat boy," laughed Idaho.

"Tex is too soft for the needle to hurt much," smiled Pete.

"Knock off the talk, men," said the corporal.

Tex was the last man to get shots

"Watch a real man take the needle," said Tex.

A sergeant pushed the needle into Tex's arm.

Then Tex turned very white and fainted!

The doctor said, "He will be all right."

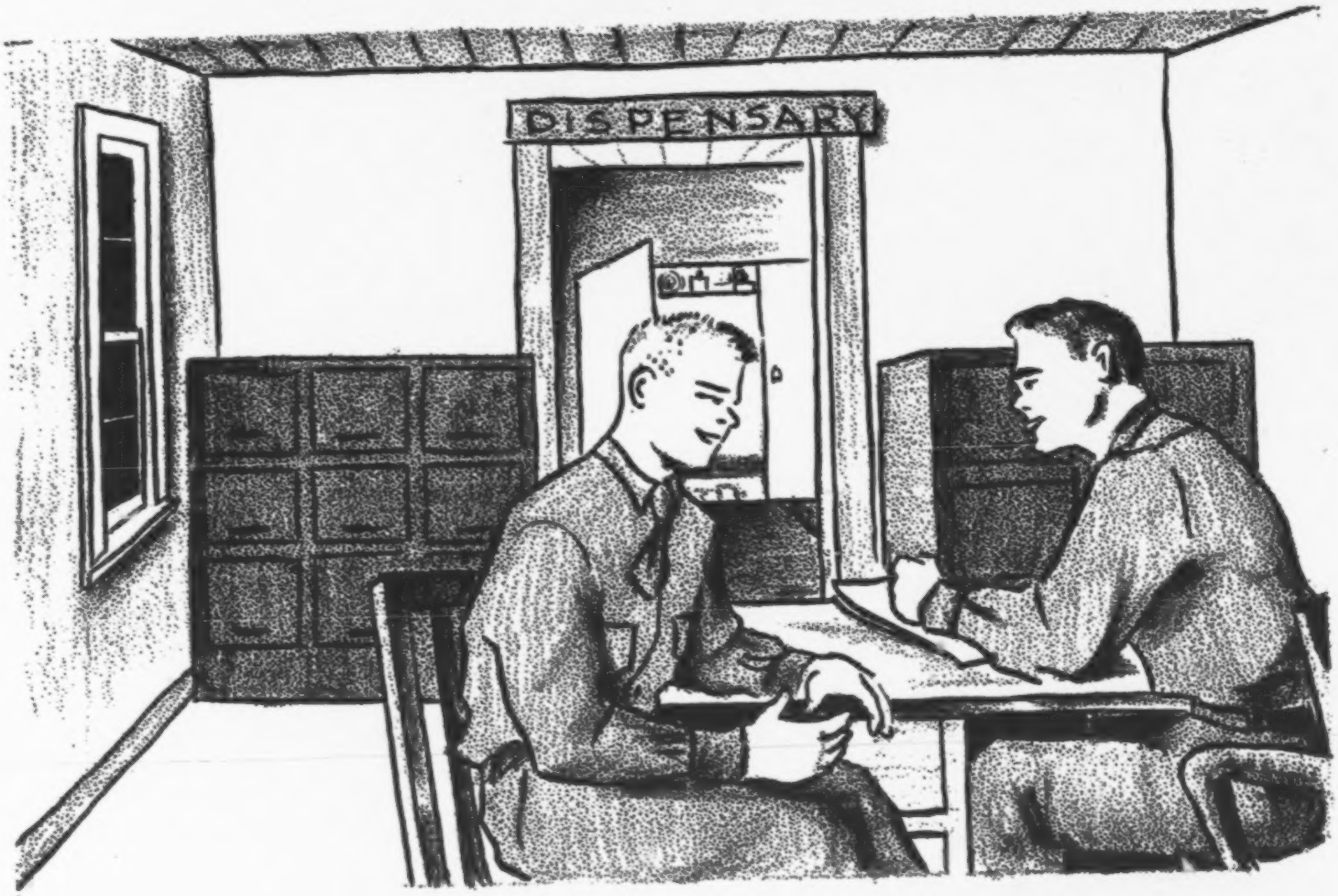
The men put on their clothes.

The doctor talked to the men.

He told them how to keep well.

"We want to help you keep well," he said.

"Sick men are no good to the Army."



Chapter 15

UNIFORMS FOR THE NEW SOLDIERS

Sergeant Hanna was waiting for the men at the barracks.

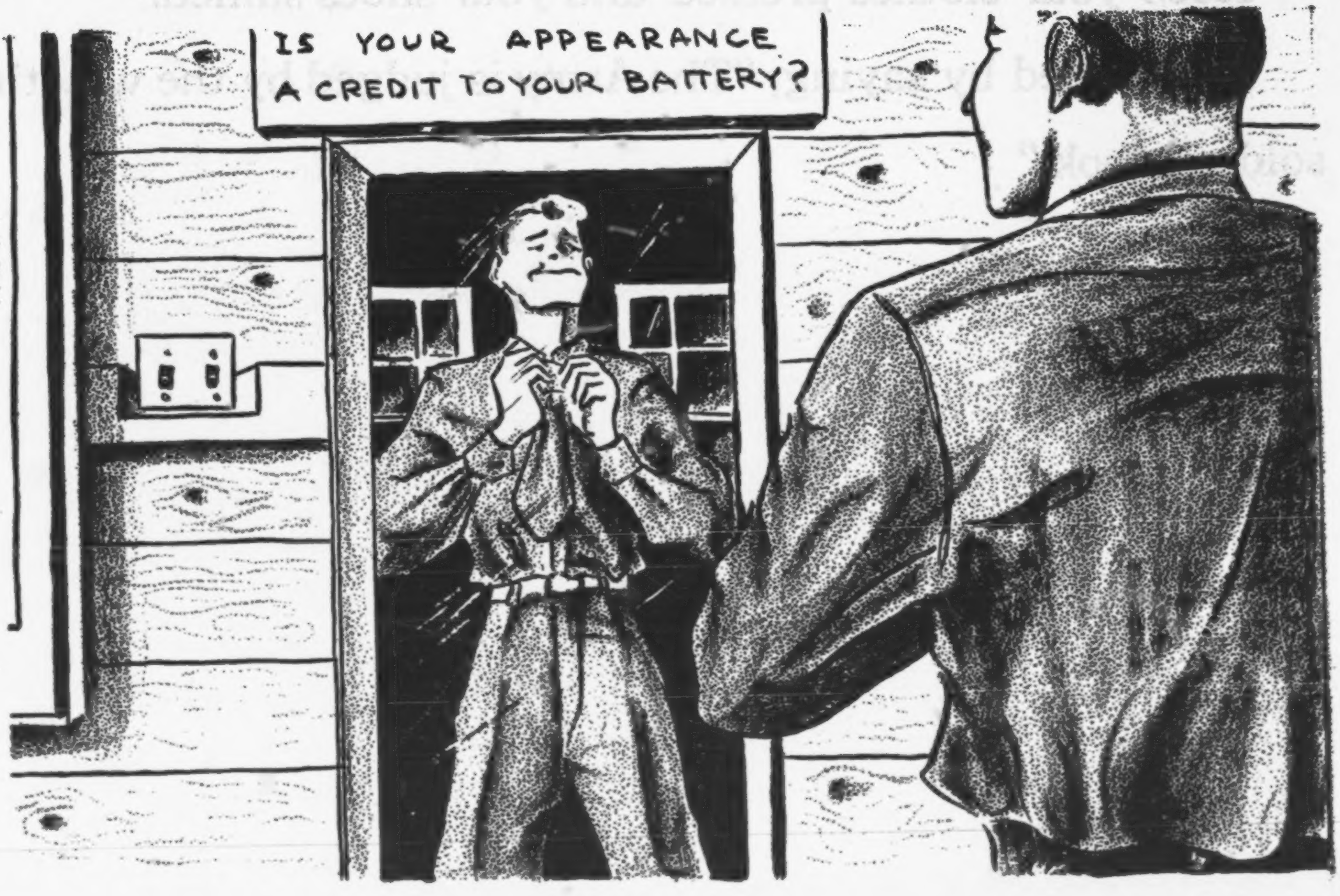
"Were you given all your shots?" he asked.

"One shot too many for me, Sergeant," answered Tex.

"The corporal said we will get more shots next week," added Pete.

"You have one hour to rest," said Sergeant Hanna.

"You go for your Army uniforms at eleven o'clock."


IS YOUR APPEARANCE
A CREDIT TO YOUR BATTERY?

Eleven o'clock came soon.

Sergeant Hanna called the men.

He sent them to the supply room.

A supply sergeant took charge of the men.

The supply sergeant talked to them.

"The Army wants you to look neat.

Your uniform is well made.

It should fit you.

Be proud of your uniform.

Keep your clothes pressed and your shoes shined."

He finished by saying, "The Army is judged by the way the soldiers look."

The men took off their civilian clothes.

Their civilian clothes were tied in bundles.

A corporal measured the men for uniforms.

The corporal measured Pete first.

Pete's waist measured thirty-two inches.

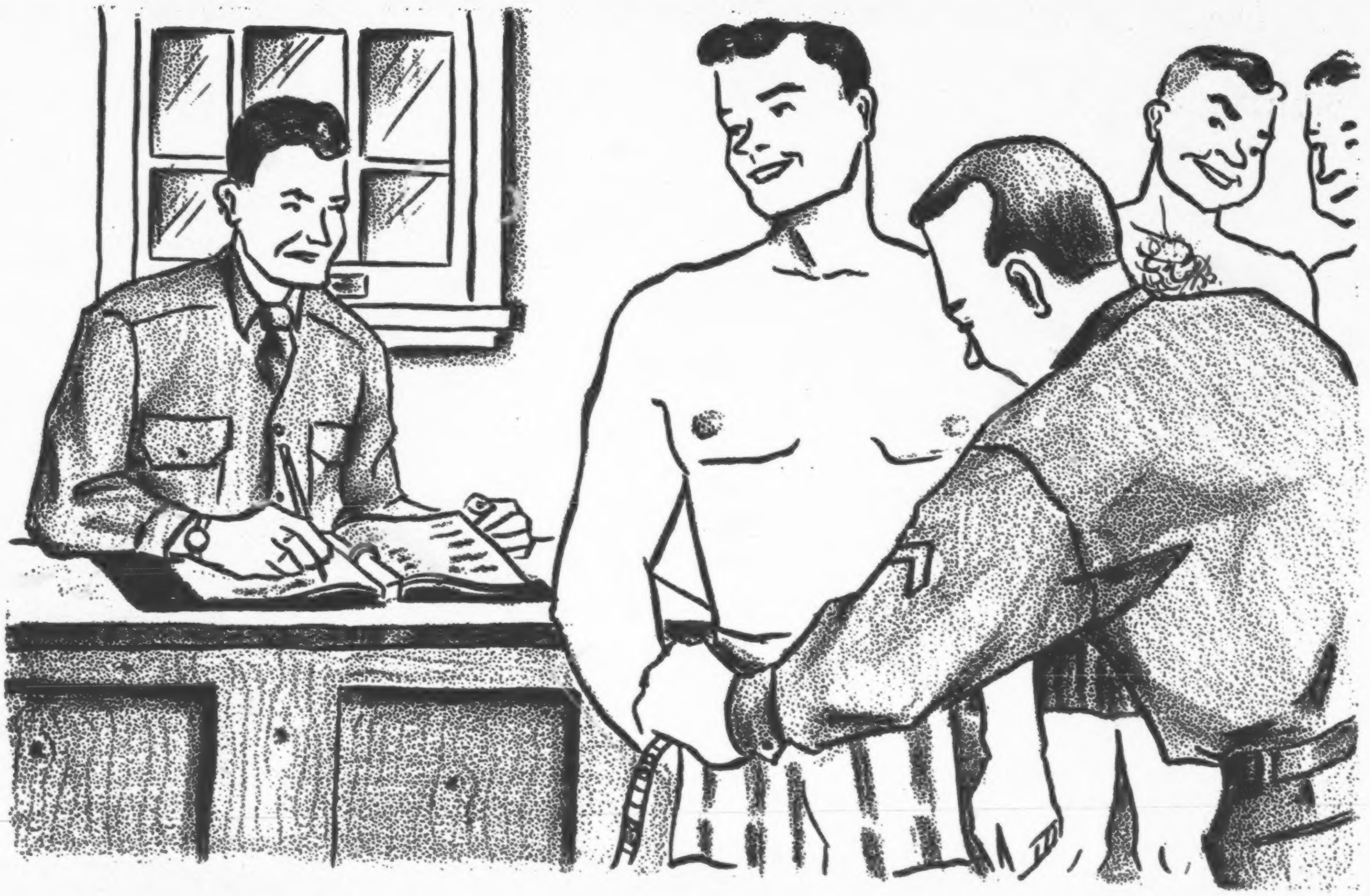
His chest measured forty inches.

His legs were thirty-four inches long.

Pete's foot was eleven inches long.

The corporal said, "Sixteen inches around the neck."

Pete was five feet and eleven inches tall.



The corporal then measured the other men.

Idaho was the tallest.

He measured six feet and one inch tall.

Idaho was two inches taller than Pete.

Tex was thirty-six inches around the waist.

Pete's waist was four inches smaller.

Idaho's waist measured thirty inches.

His waist was the smallest.

Idaho said, "I am taller than any of you."

Tex answered, "Yes, but I am the biggest man here."

Pete put on his new Army shoes.

"These shoes are too big," he said.

The corporal answered, "Army shoes must not be tight. Civilian shoes are often too tight."

"Look at the wide toes," said Idaho.

The corporal replied, "Wide shoes will let your toes straighten out."

Tex said, "The leather feels very good."

The corporal issued socks to the men.

Don't wear a pair of socks more than one day without washing them," he told the men.

The men were issued shorts next.

The corporal explained the sizes.

"If your waist measures thirty-two inches, you wear size thirty-two shorts," he told them.

"A man whose waist measures thirty-six inches wears size thirty-six shorts," he went on.

Idaho's waist measured thirty inches.

The corporal issued size thirty shorts to him.

Tex got size thirty-six and Pete was issued size thirty-two.

"You get undershirts next," said the corporal.

"Undershirt sizes are the same as your chest measurement," added the corporal.

Next came the Army shirts.

Pete buttoned his shirt.

He said, "This is a good fit."

"These shirts are all wool," said the corporal.

"Maybe that wool came from home," said Idaho.

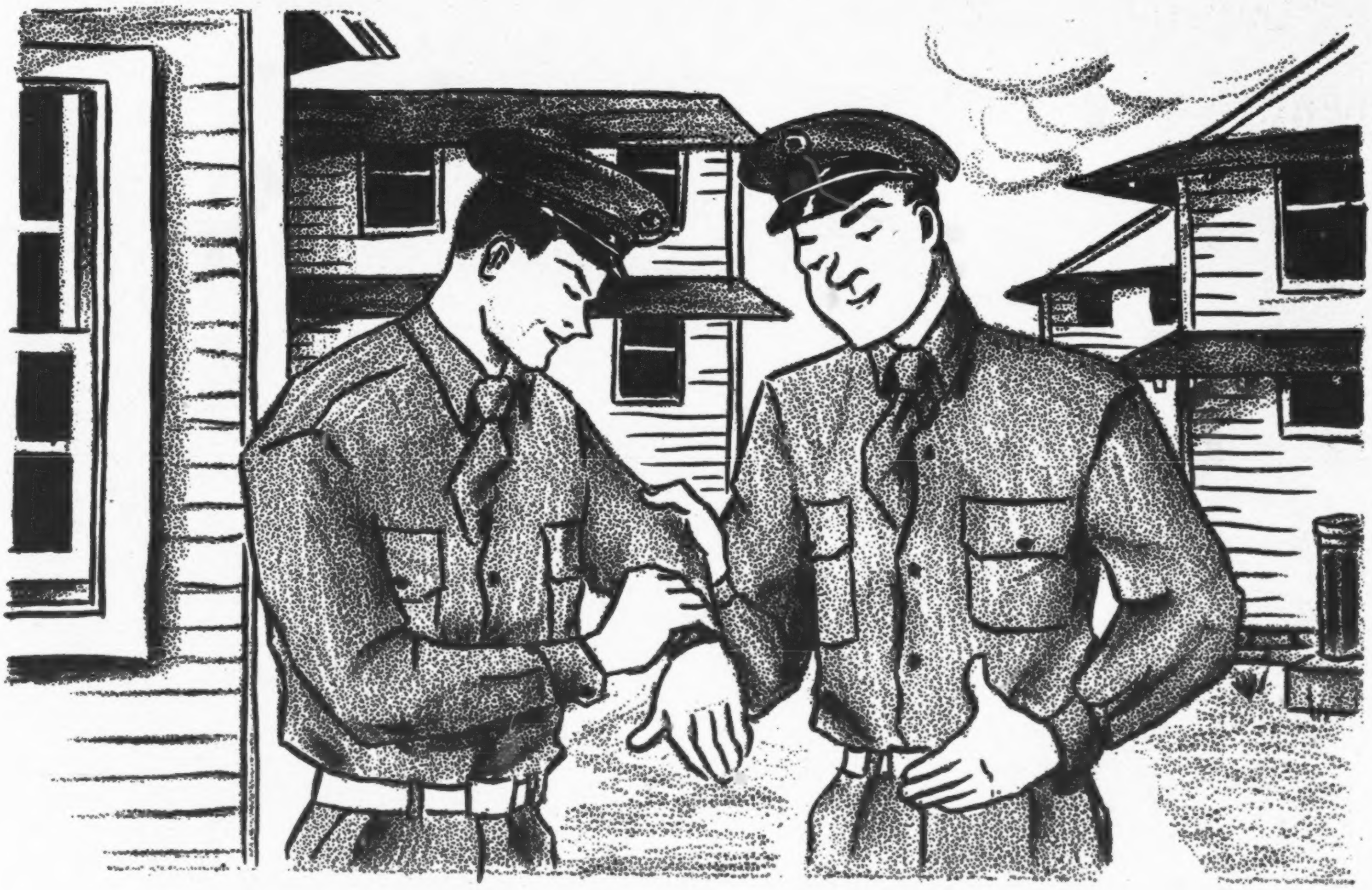
The men then got trousers.

Each man was issued two neckties.

The blouse and garrison cap finished the uniform.

The men marched back to the barracks.

"You look like soldiers now," said Sergeant Hanna.



"I feel like a soldier, Sergeant," Tex answered.

"These shoes feel big and heavy," said Idaho

Sergeant Hanna answered, "They will feel good when they are broken in."

"How do I look, Tex?" asked Pete, putting his chest out.

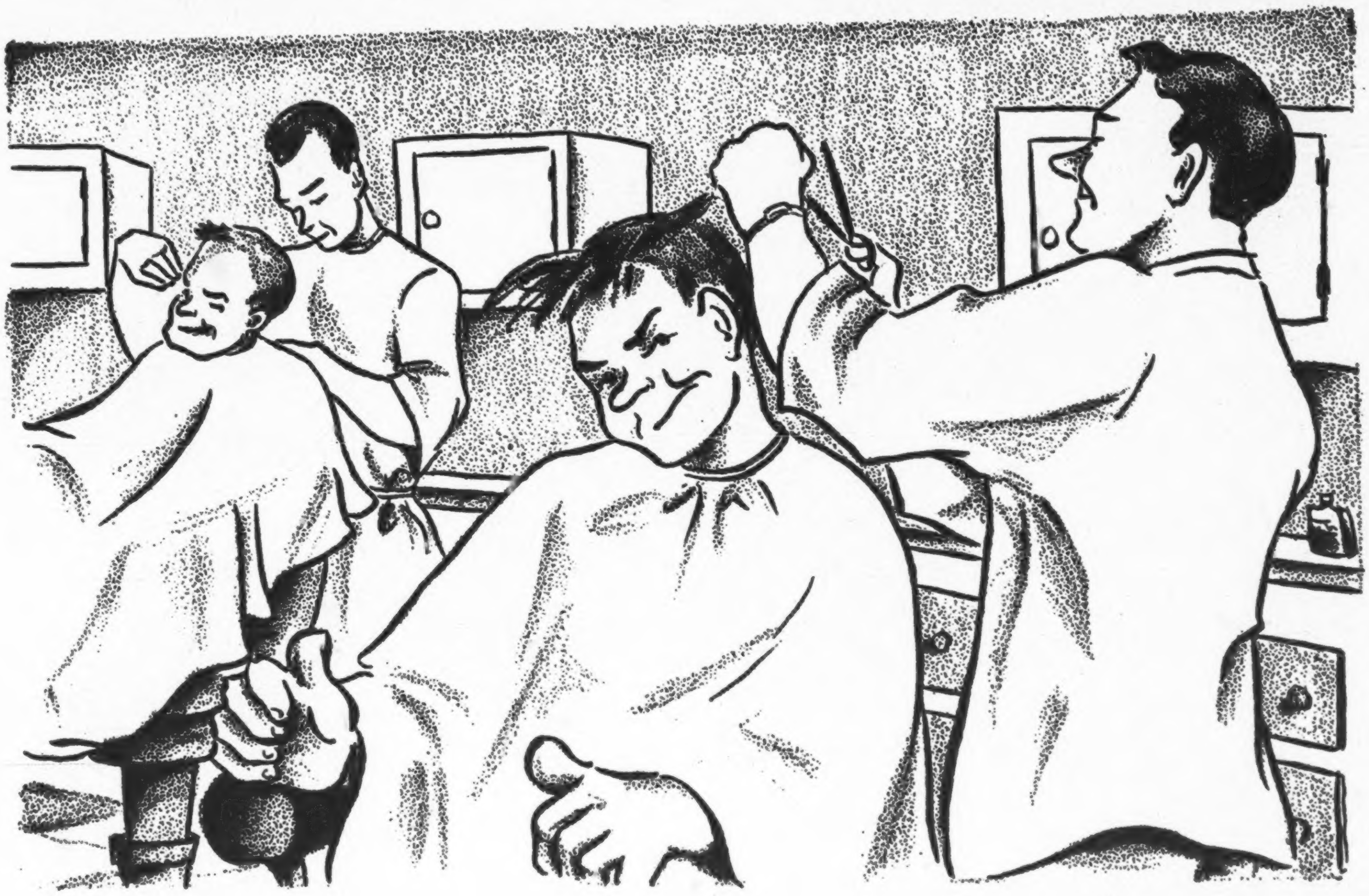
"You look like an old-timer, Pete," answered Tex, smiling.

Pete looked taller and straighter than ever in his Army uniform.

Chapter 16

THE ARMY RECRUITS GET HAIRCUTS

After lunch the men went to the barber shop.
Pete got in the chair first.
The barber cut his hair very fast.
Soon Pete's hair was very short.
One of the new men, named Dick, had long hair.
Dick liked to wear his hair long.
He was always combing it.
Dick did not like Pete's short haircut.
"I like my hair cut short," Pete told Dick.



Dick told the barber, "I do not want a short haircut."

"All the men get their hair cut short," said the barber.

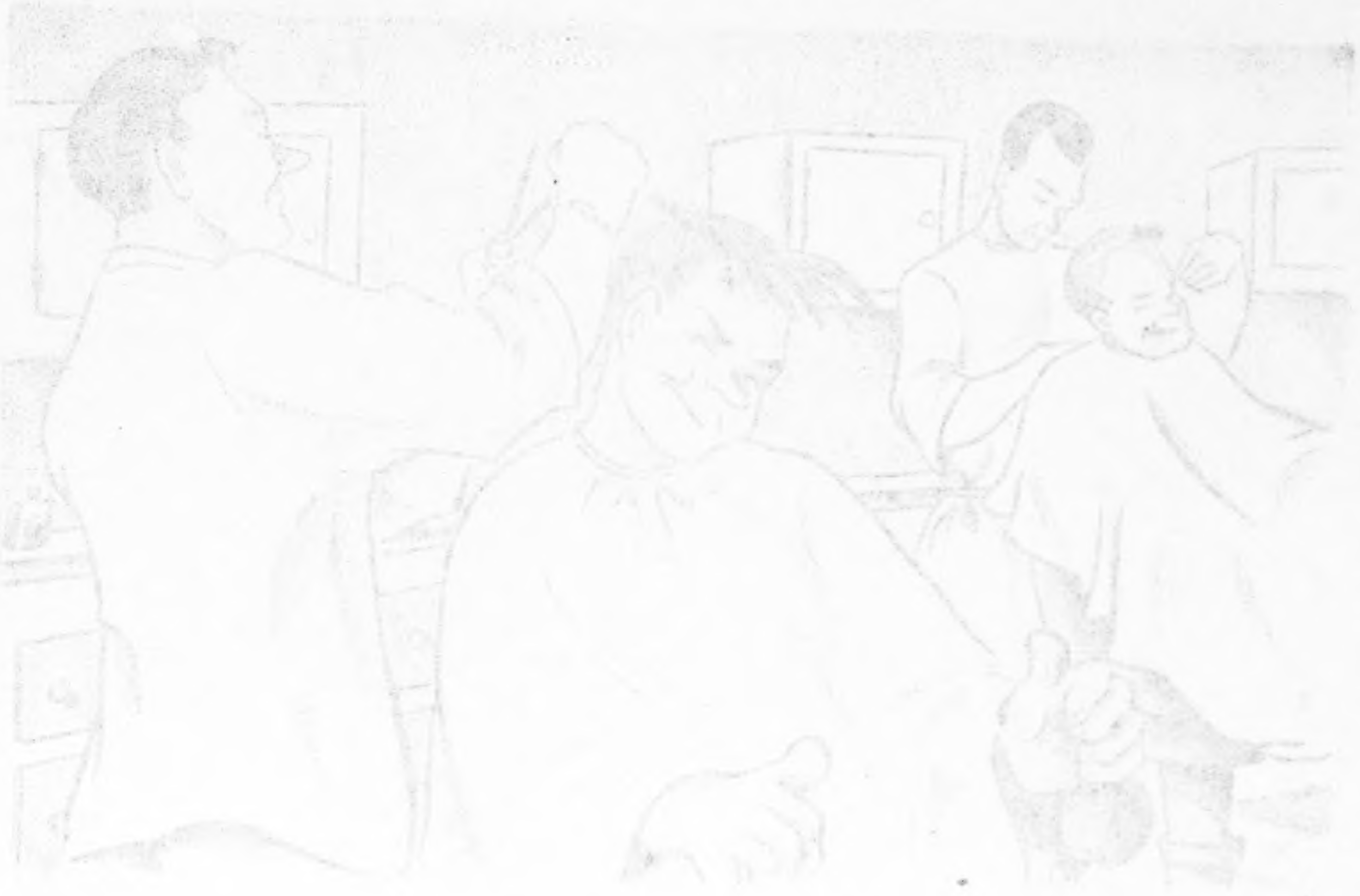
"I always wear my hair long," answered Dick.

"Be a sport, Dick. Get that long hair cut off," laughed Tex.

Idaho added, "Sure, you may even look better with your hair cut short."

Dick got in the chair.

He said to the barber, "Cut my hair short.
I will try anything once."



The barber started to cut Dick's hair.

"This will be the best haircut you ever had," the barber said to Dick.

The barber continued, "I think you will like your hair short. Most soldiers do."

Soon Dick's hair was cut.

He looked at his head.

"It does not look bad, and it feels good," said Dick.

"I knew your hair would look good cut short," replied Tex.

All of the men agreed.

"My hair grows very fast," said Tex.

"At home I went to the barber shop every two weeks."

One soldier had no hair on his head.

"I am bald, but I have to get haircuts!" the baldheaded soldier said.

"Why do you have to get haircuts?" Tex asked.

"No one ever gets bald on his neck," laughed Idaho.

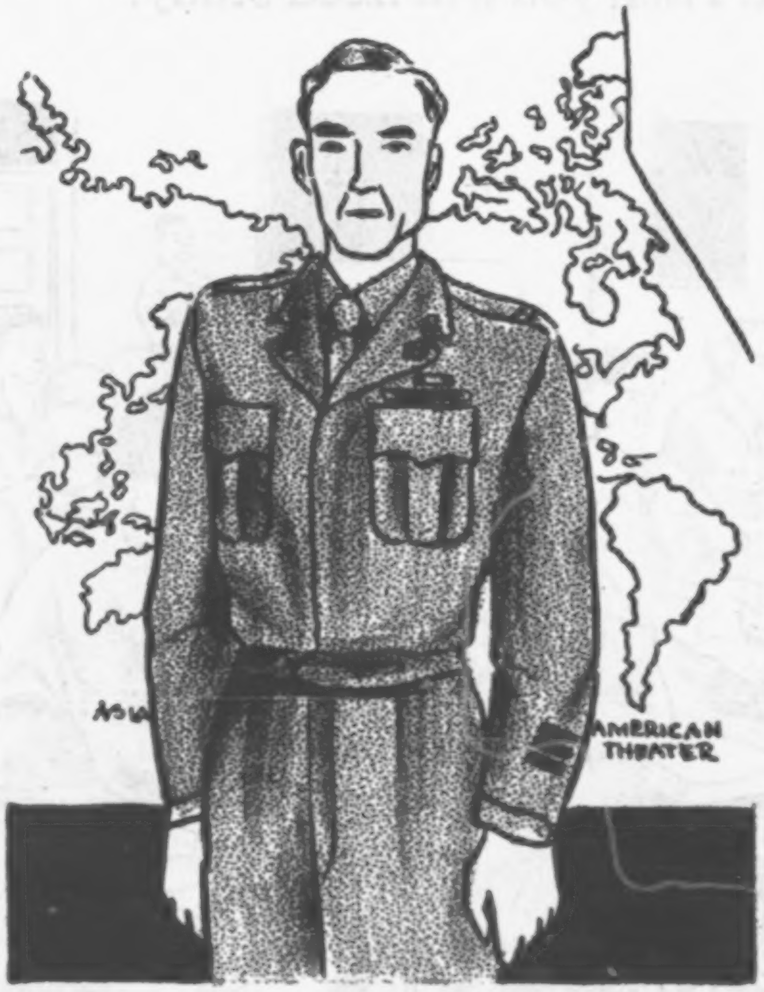
Chapter 17

CAPTAIN BELL TALKS WITH THE MEN

That afternoon at four o'clock, the men reported to the assembly hall. Captain Bell was going to talk to the new soldiers.

Sergeant Hanna told the men to stand at attention when the captain came in.

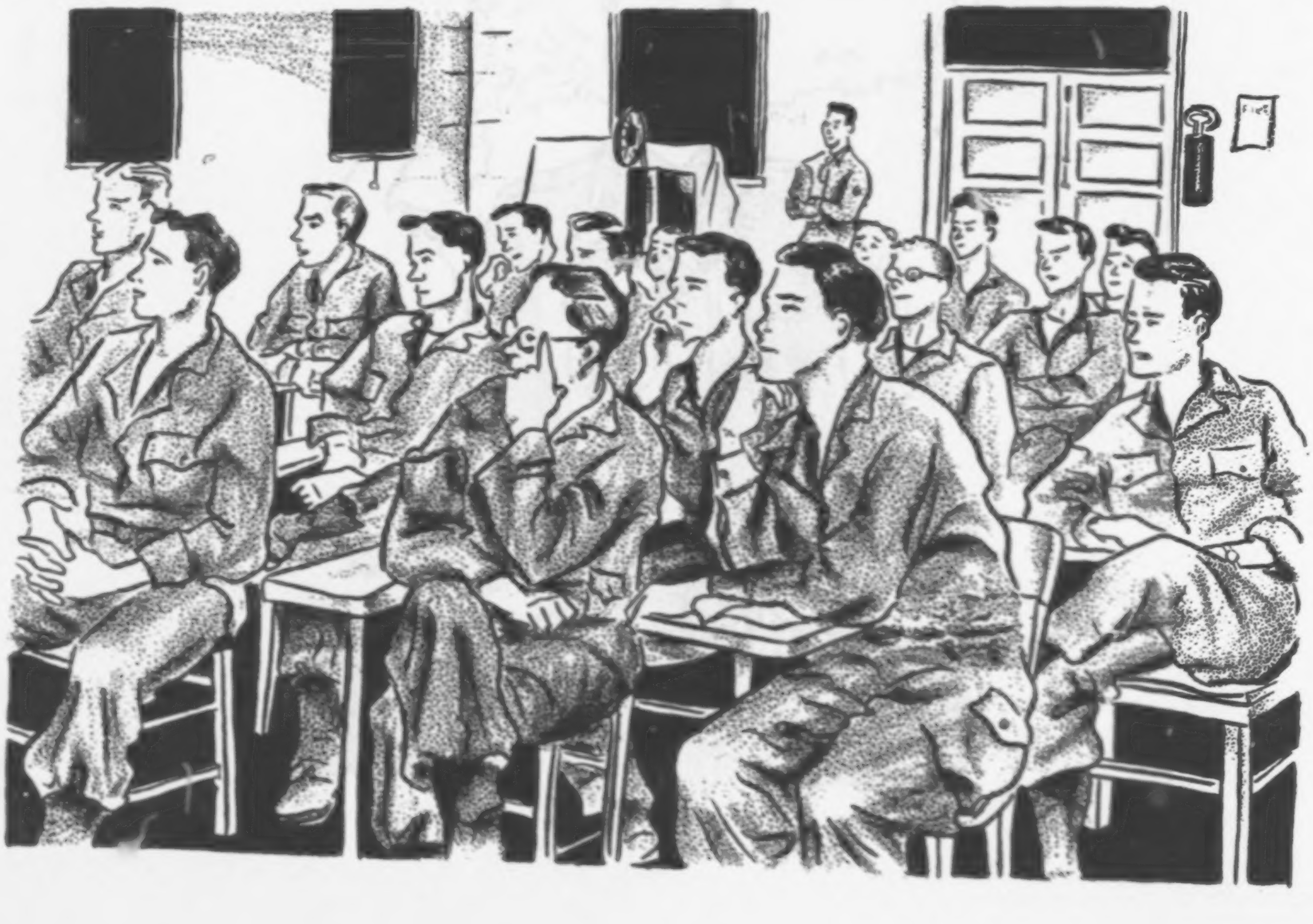
Captain Bell walked in briskly. "Be seated, men," he said.



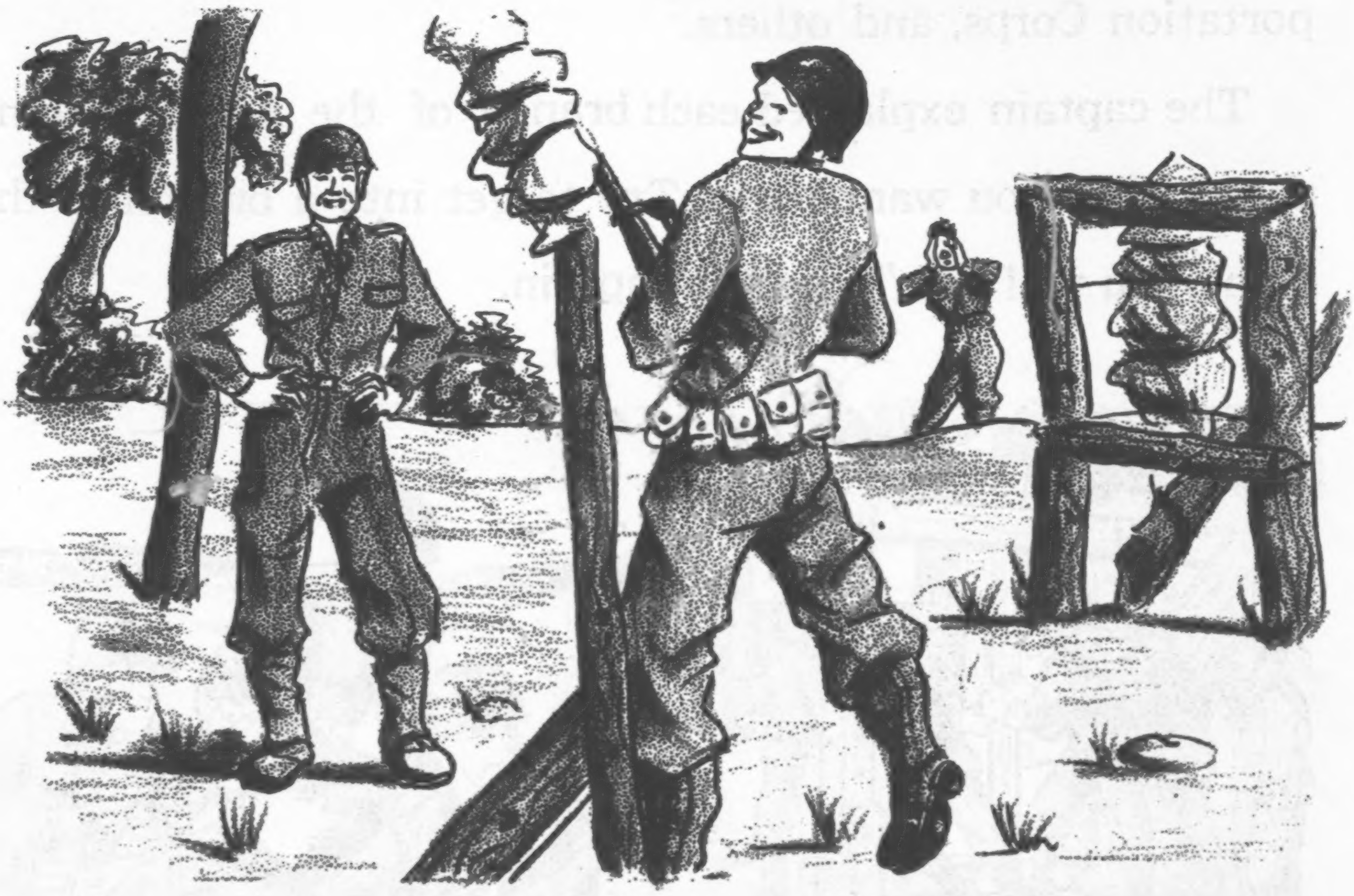
Captain Bell started his talk by saying, "Men, Army life is what you make it." The captain told the men that the Army offers a happy, busy life.

The captain went on, "Learn the Army way to do things. Obey orders. Keep out of trouble. Think for yourself. Take things as they come and be cheerful."

"Men are not all alike. The Army wants you to do the things that you can do well. The Army will help you find out what you can do best. Then you will need study."



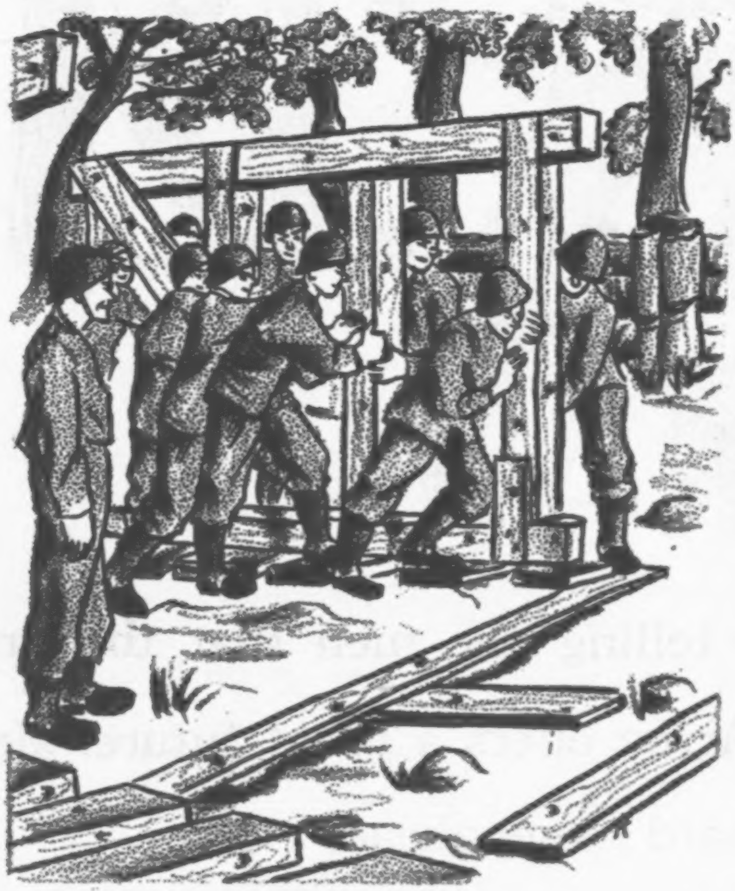
The men were told that the training would be hard. Some things they would not like. The captain said, "Remember, there is a good reason for everything you are told to do."

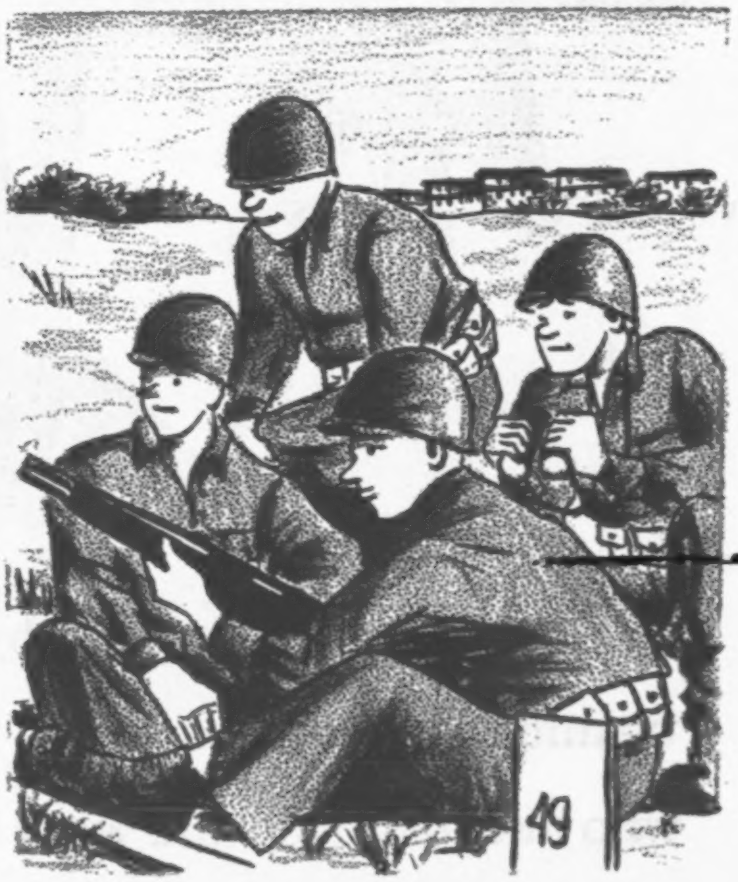


Captain Bell continued by telling the men that the first training is only a start. The Army offers a great future. Men who like the Army and work hard move ahead.

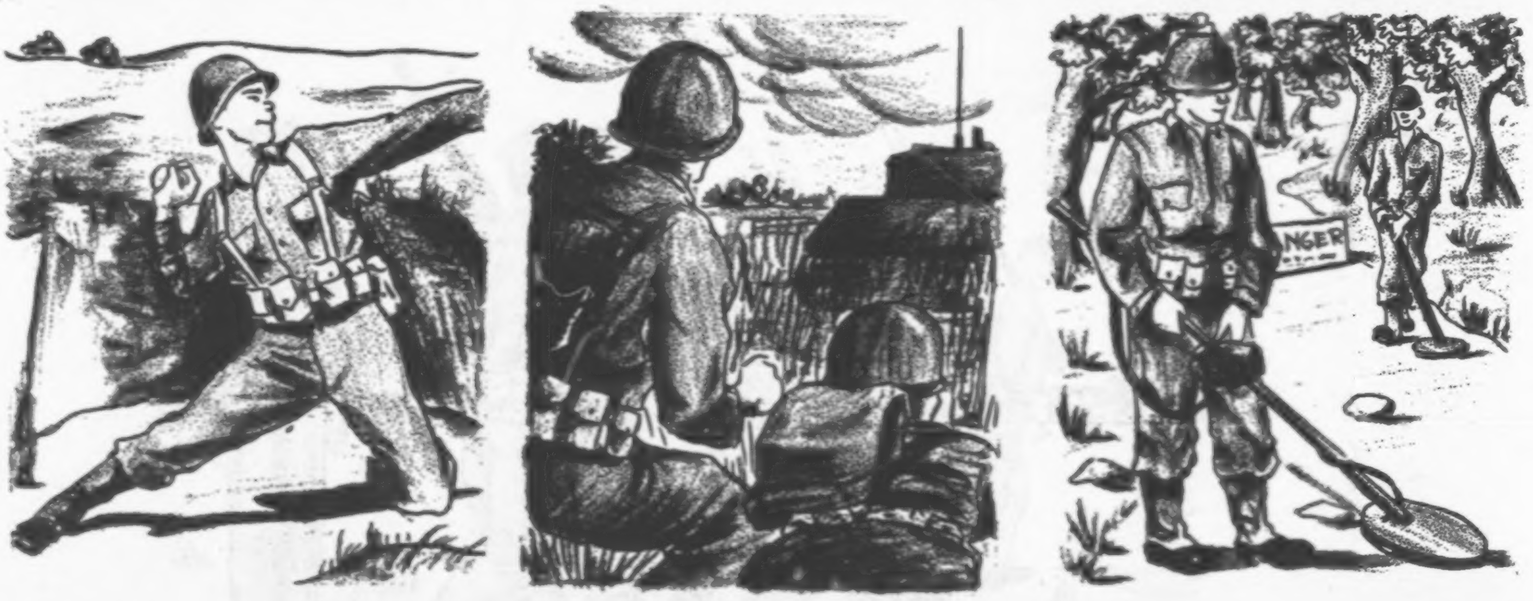
Captain Bell told the soldiers about the many branches of the Army. He mentioned the Artillery, Engineers, Infantry, Quartermaster Corps, Signal Corps, Tank Corps, Transportation Corps, and others.

The captain explained each branch of the Army. "Think about what you want to do. Try to get into a branch of the Army you will like," said the captain.





Pete thought he would like the Infantry. He liked to shoot and wanted to earn a Sharpshooter's Medal. Tex had joined the Army to get in the Engineers. The Tank Corps sounded good to Idaho. He had always liked machinery.



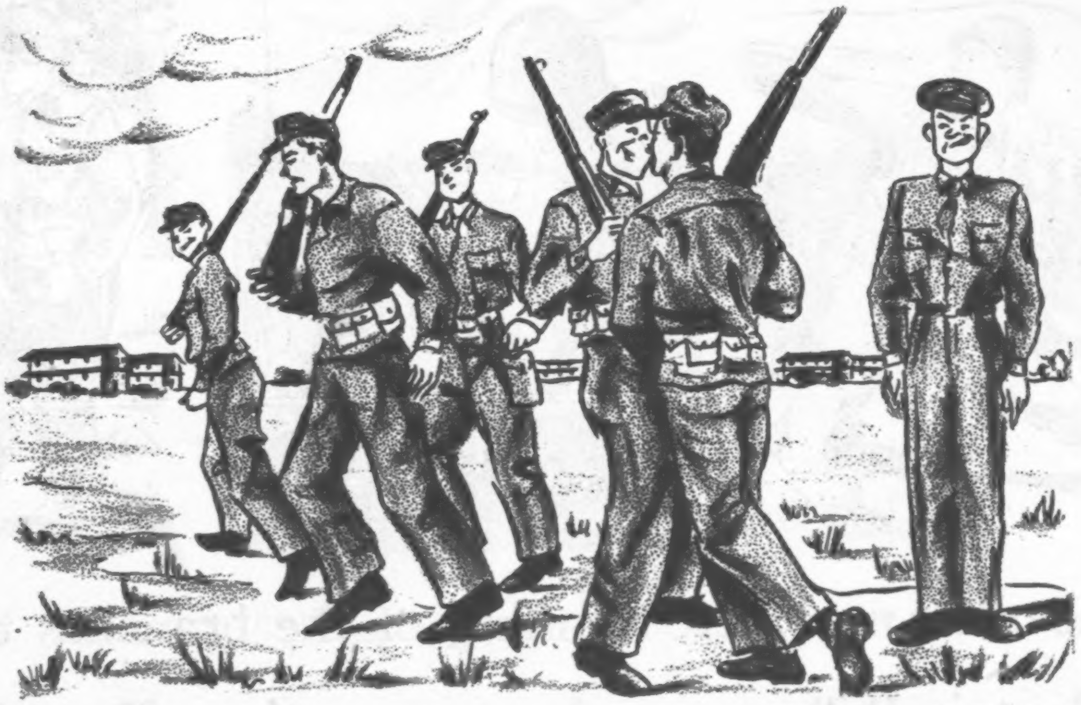
The other men were thinking of the branches they would like. Captain Bell answered many questions. He ended his talk by saying, "The Army has a job for you. Start working toward it now."

Chapter 18

PETE BECOMES A FULL-FLEDGED SOLDIER

The new soldiers were very busy the first weeks in camp. The men learned many things.

They drilled every day. At first the men made many mistakes.



The men soon learned to keep in step. They learned how to carry their rifles. After many days of marching, Pete's squad looked good. They could follow these orders:

"Forward. March."

"Column right. March."

"Column left. March."

"To the rear. March."

"By the right flank. March."

Rifle drill was easy for Pete. He liked to handle his rifle. It was hard for Tex. One day the men laughed at Tex. An officer gave the command, "Present Arms!" Tex handed his rifle to the officer!

The men learned how to take care of a rifle. They learned how to take a rifle apart, how to clean it, and how to oil it.

Sergeant Hanna took Pete's squad to the rifle range. The squad reported to the officer in charge.

Pete liked to shoot. He scored three bull's-eyes the very first day. "Good shooting, Brown," the sergeant said.

Tex missed the target. He shot again and missed the second time. "Good soldiers can shoot," Sergeant Hanna said.

The sergeant is talking about you, Tex," laughed Idaho. "I thought every man from Texas was a good shot."

One day a major came to the rifle range. He watched the men shoot. He watched the way Tex held his rifle.

The major asked Idaho, "What is wrong with the way Tex holds his rifle?"

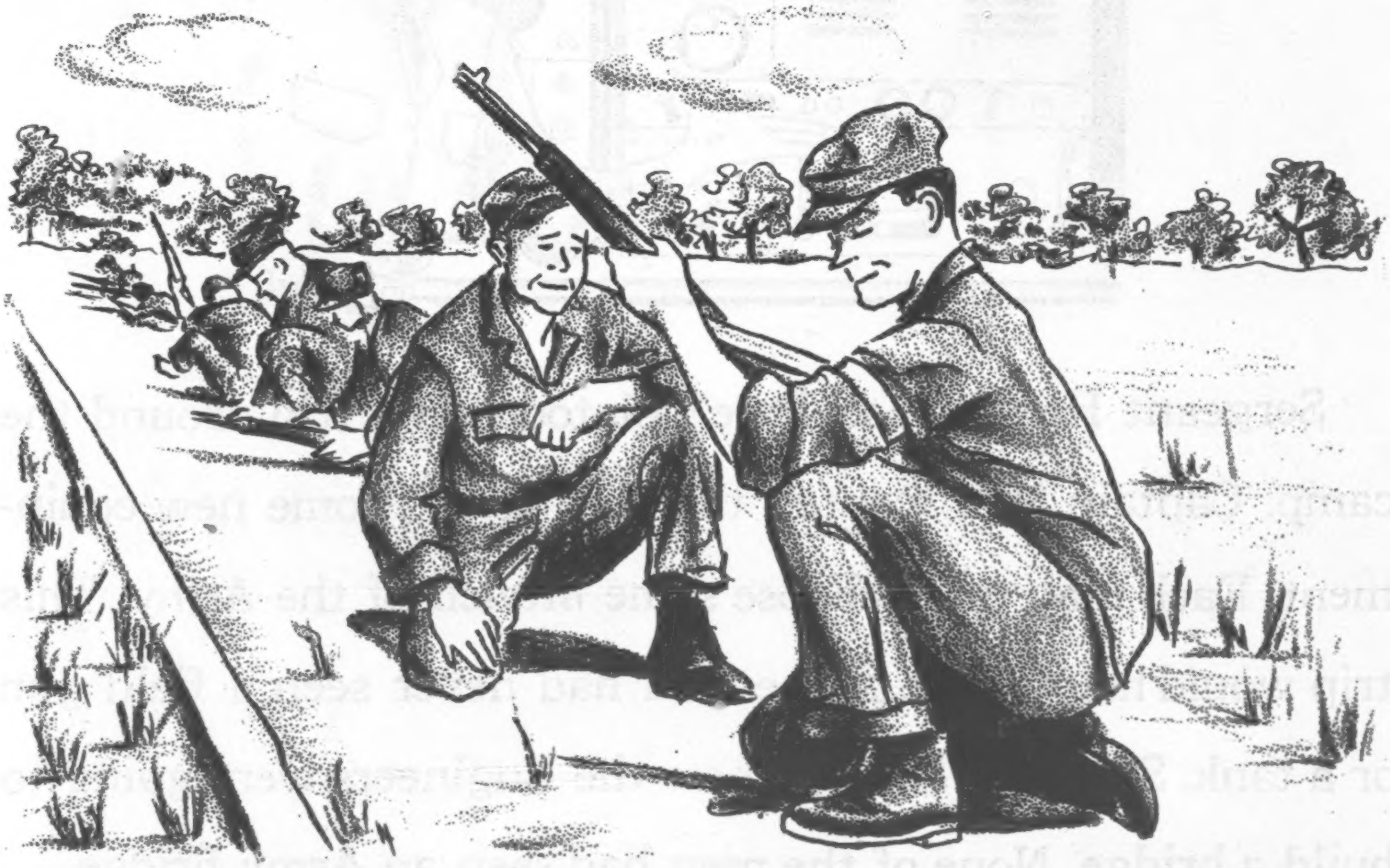
"He does not place himself. He does not hold his rifle steady, sir," answered Idaho.

Tex shot and missed a second time.

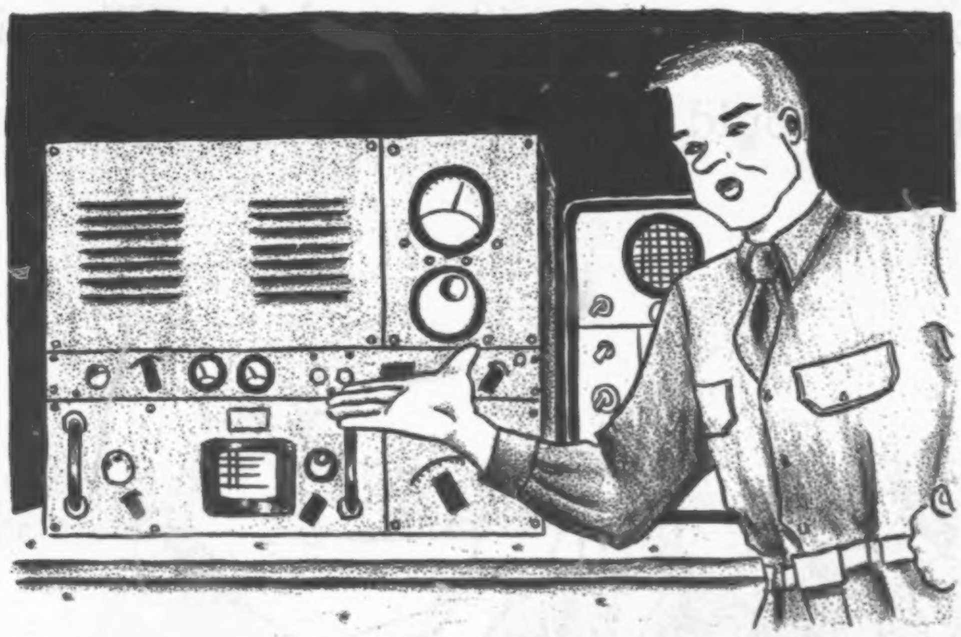
"What was wrong that time?" the major asked Tex.

"I pulled the trigger. I should have squeezed it, sir," Tex answered.

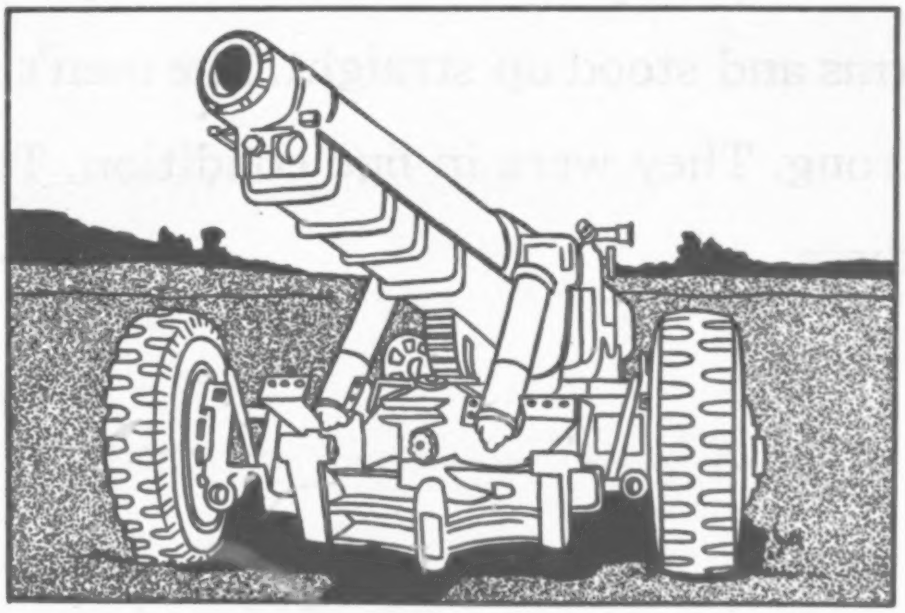
Tex took good aim and hit the target. "That is the way a good soldier should shoot!" smiled the major and walked away.



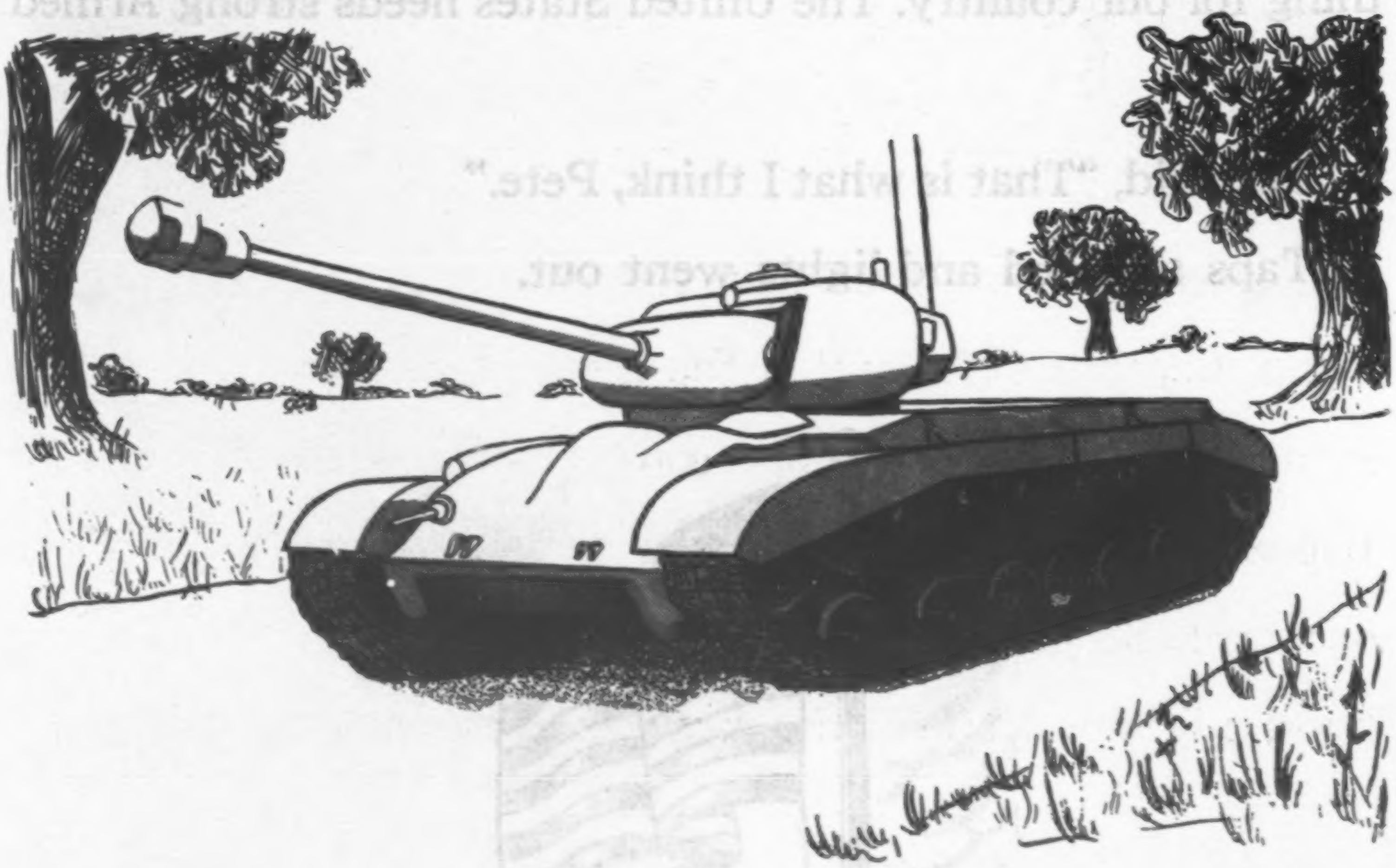
Pete's platoon learned how to salute. They looked neat in their uniforms and stood up straight. The men's muscles were hard and strong. They were in fine condition. They were becoming soldiers.



Sergeant Hanna took Pete's platoon on a trip around the camp. Captain Bell wanted the men to see some new equipment. Each man must choose some branch of the Army. This trip would help. Some of the men had never seen a field gun or a tank. Sergeant Hanna knew the Engineers were going to build a bridge. None of the men had seen an Army bridge.



The men saw an old tank. Sergeant Hanna said it had been in the Battle of the Bulge. Then they looked at a new tank. Idaho sat in the driver's seat. "Boy, I would like to drive this tank!" he said.



Sergeant Hanna showed them many field guns. They also saw some Signal Corps equipment. They watched the Engineers build a bridge. "Yes, that is what I want to do," said Tex.

Pete was interested in all the things he saw. But, he still wanted to be in the Infantry.

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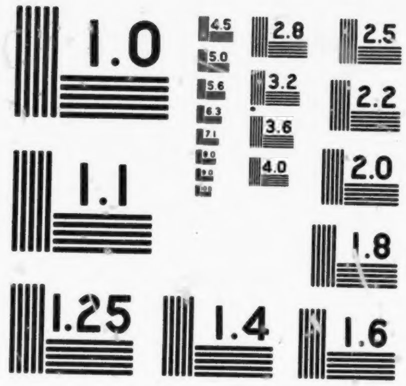
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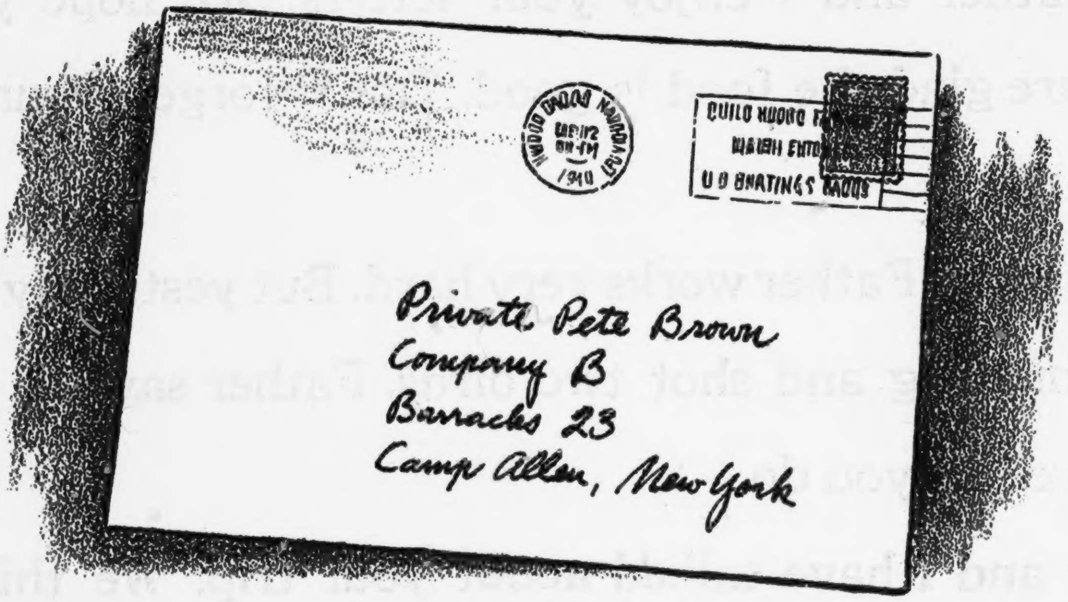
MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS-1963

Chapter 19

MAIL FOR PETE


Private Pete Brown
Company B
Barracks 23
Camp Allen, New York

Pete enjoyed getting letters. Pete's mother wrote to him, Sue wrote often, and letters came from Bob.

Writing letters was not easy for Pete. Writing a letter took him a long time. Pete answered each letter. He knew that he would not get any letters if he did not write.

Pete wrote many letters. Writing letters became easier for Pete. One day Pete was very happy. Three letters came to him. Here are the letters.

Sunday

Dear Son,

Your father and I enjoy your letters. We hope you are well. We are glad the food is good. Don't forget your mother's cooking!

We miss you. Father works very hard. But yesterday he took Brownie hunting and shot two birds. Father says he doesn't shoot as well as you do.

Father and I have talked about your trip. We think you should go to Washington. Sue is going to Washington to visit a girl friend. Will you meet her there? I hope Bob can be there as you plan.

Write to us often. Dad sends his love.

Love,
Mother

Saturday

Dearest Pete,

Your letter came yesterday. I love you more and more. I miss you all the time. Saturday and Sunday are lonely days!

My girl friend, Mary, answered my letter. She wants me to visit her in Washington. I can go when you get your furlough. Isn't that wonderful news?

I hope Bob can get his leave at the same time? Do you think Bob and Mary will like each other? It will be nice if they do.

Find out soon when you can get your furlough. I will count the days until we meet in Washington.

All my love,
Your Sue

Monday

Dear Pete,

Army life must be all right! Your letters sound like you are getting along fine. My basic training was a lot like yours. It was plenty tough, too!

The Navy is just what I want. I am going to be a radioman. Two of my buddies are going to Radio School with me. One of them thinks he will not stay in the Navy. He wants to have a radio store when he gets out.

I can leave any time now. Let me know when you can get your furlough. Meeting in Washington should be fun.

Your buddy,

Bob

Pete answered his three letters. Here are the letters he wrote.

Wednesday

Dear Mom and Dad,

Your letter came Tuesday. It is good to hear that you both are getting along so well. No, Mom, I have not forgotten your cooking. Army food is not that good! Dad, I am glad you took Brownie hunting.

Letters came from Sue and Bob yesterday. We plan to meet in Washington soon. Sue will visit Mary. Bob will get his leave when I get my furlough. It will be fun to be with them again.

I will come home on my next furlough. Drill is tough, but I am getting along O.K.

Love to both of you,

Pete

Thursday

Sue, Dearest,

Soon we will see each other. Captain Bell said I may have a furlough in about three weeks. I will know on Monday, for sure.

I am glad you can stay with Mary in Washington. She can show us the city.

A letter came from Bob Tuesday. He can meet us in Washington. I will write Bob about Mary. I think they will like each other.

It seems so long since I said "Goodbye" to you. I miss you, dearest, every day. I dream about you every night. We can start counting the days until we are together.

I love you,

Pete

Friday

Dear Bob,

I am glad you can get your leave. Our plans are working out. Captain Bell said I may have a furlough in about three weeks. He will tell me the date on Monday. I will write to you the same day. Then you can ask for your leave on the same date I get mine.

Sue has a friend in Washington, named Mary. Sue will stay with Mary while we are in Washington. Sue wants you to date Mary. I have not seen her, but Sue says she is good looking.

The Navy must be treating you O.K. My platoon won the drill prize this week. The prize was an extra pass for the whole platoon.

I will see you soon, buddy.

Pete

Chapter 20

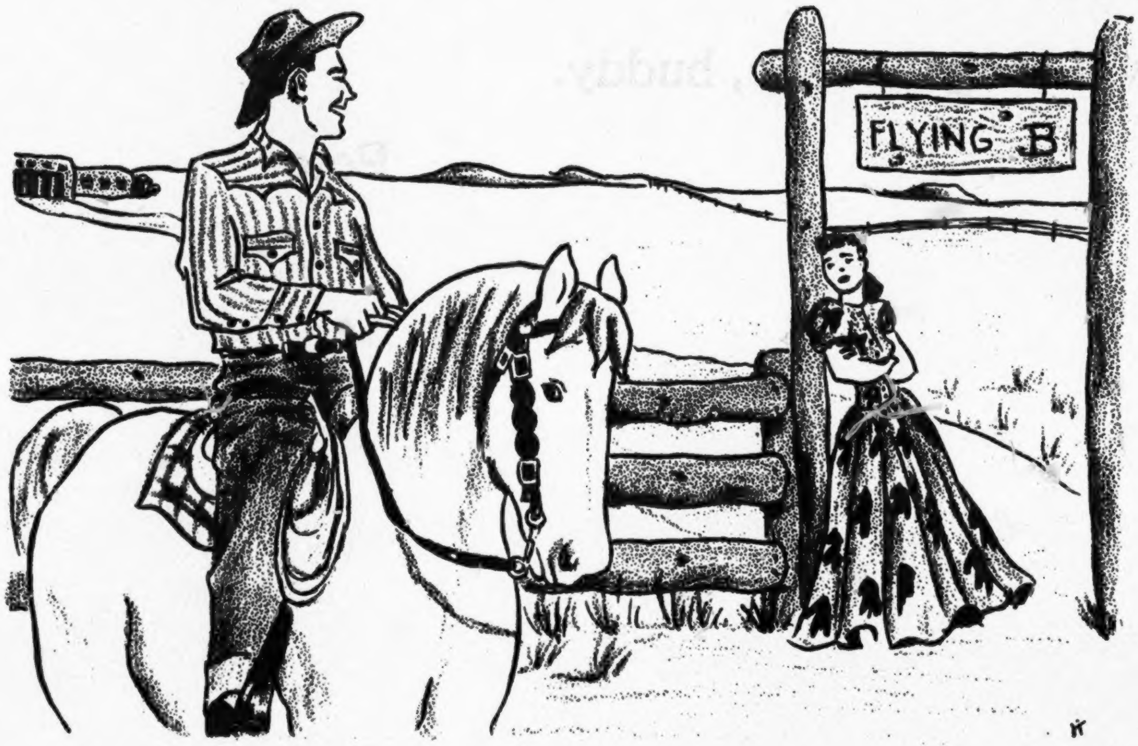
PETE HAS FUN IN THE ARMY

The new soldiers worked very hard But they had fun, too. Pete enjoyed the movies a lot. He liked the western movies best of all.

Fun at the Movies

One night he saw *Cowboy Sam Rides Again.* This movie was about a cowboy who lived in Texas a long time ago. Cowboy Sam lived on a large ranch. He was in love with the rancher's daughter, named Ruth.

Sam was a good cowboy. Ruth liked Sam very much. He was good looking and rode horses well. The rancher did not like Sam. He did not want his daughter, Ruth, to marry a cowboy.

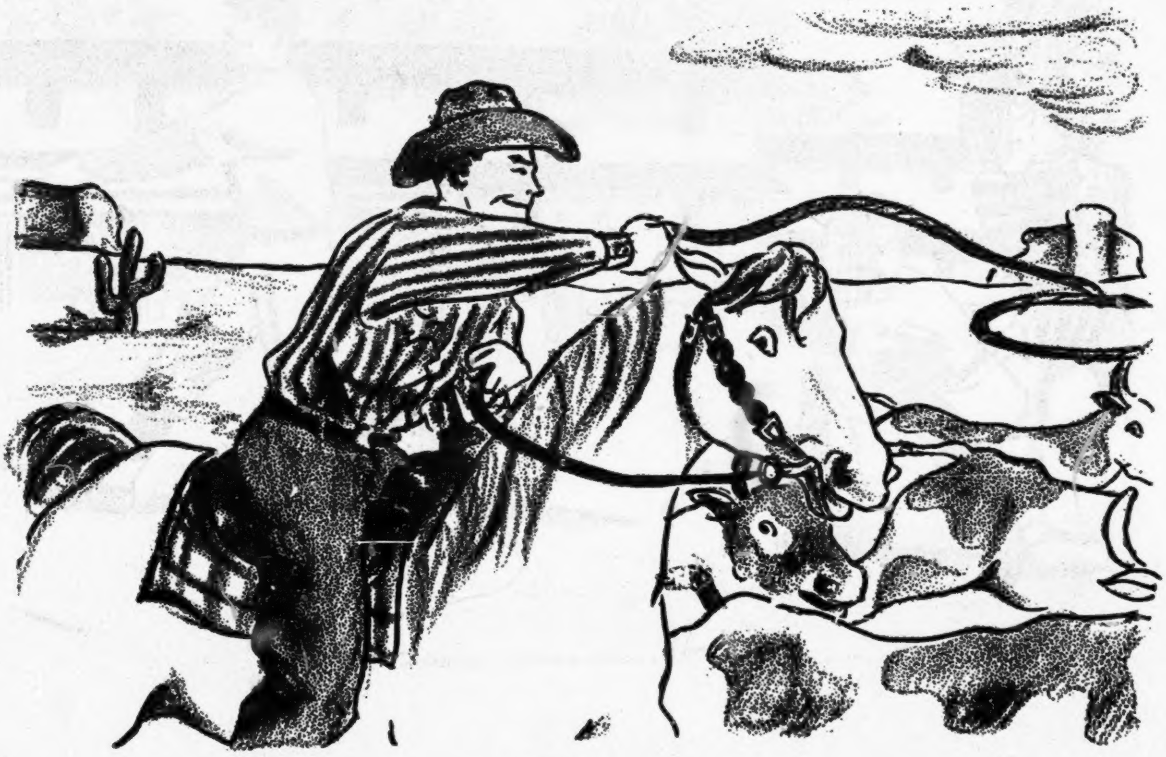


One day the rancher was driving some cattle to the railroad. Ruth was with her father. Suddenly a band of rustlers rode out from behind a hill. All the rustlers had guns. They tied up the rancher and stole the cattle. The rustlers took Ruth with them when they left.

Sam was worried when Ruth and her father did not come home. He rode toward the railroad and found the rancher. Sam untied the rancher. He rode fast after the rustlers.

Sam rode all night. In the morning he caught up with the rustlers. Shooting with both of his guns. Sam drove the rustlers away. Ruth was not hurt. Sam saved Ruth and the cattle.

The rancher said, "Sam, you are a brave cowboy. You may marry Ruth."



Fun Playing Baseball

Pete liked to play baseball. He played baseball whenever he could. Pete played on his barracks team. Pete played second base. He was a good hitter.

Pete's barracks, number twenty-three, had a good team. The team from barracks number twenty-seven was good, too. They had played four games with each other. Barracks number twenty-three had won two games. Barracks number twenty-seven had won two games, also.

On Saturday the teams were to play for the championship. All the men in the winning barracks were to get an extra pass. Everyone was talking about the game.

The game started slowly. Both teams played good ball. There were few hits and, for the first five innings, no score was made. In the sixth inning barracks twenty-seven had men on second and third base. Two men were out. A hard hit ball went between Pete's legs. Two runs came in. The next man struck out. Pete's team was two runs behind. Pete felt bad. It was his fault.

Barracks twenty-three did not score in the sixth inning. Neither team scored in the seventh and eighth innings. In the eighth inning Pete made a good play and put two men out.

Pete's team batted last in the ninth inning. With two men out, barracks twenty-three had one run in. The score was two to one. One man was on base when Pete came to bat. He missed the first ball. Then Pete hit a home run!

Pete's team had won the ball game. Idaho and Tex were proud of Pete.

Fun on a Pass

Pete, Idaho, and Tex were issued passes at the same time. They went to town together. They wanted a change from Army chow.

Tex said, "I hear the steaks are good at the Black Fox Inn."

Let's have dinner there," added Idaho.

The men had a good meal. Idaho winked at the waitress. "How about a date?" he asked her.

"Don't pay any attention to Idaho," said Tex.

"Idaho looks cute!" the waitress said to Tex.

"I'll be back without these fellows," Idaho told her.

"Come on, men, let's go," said Pete.

The men agreed to go to Playland Park. Idaho had been there before. He said they could have fun at the park.

They rode for twenty minutes on a street car. The park was crowded.

"What shall we do first?" asked Tex.

"Let's go over to the dance hall," said Pete.

The music was good. The soldiers each danced several times. Tex did not dance very well, but he had fun. The girls laughed at him. Pete liked to dance and could dance well.

As they left the dance hall, Idaho said, "Those girls were all right.'"

Pete answered, "You should see Sue dance."

The men walked around the park. They watched the rides and sideshows. They went to one girl show. It was a good one. Tex wanted to see it again. Idaho looked at his watch.

"Our time is about up. We should start back," he said.

The men agreed to come back to Playland Park again.

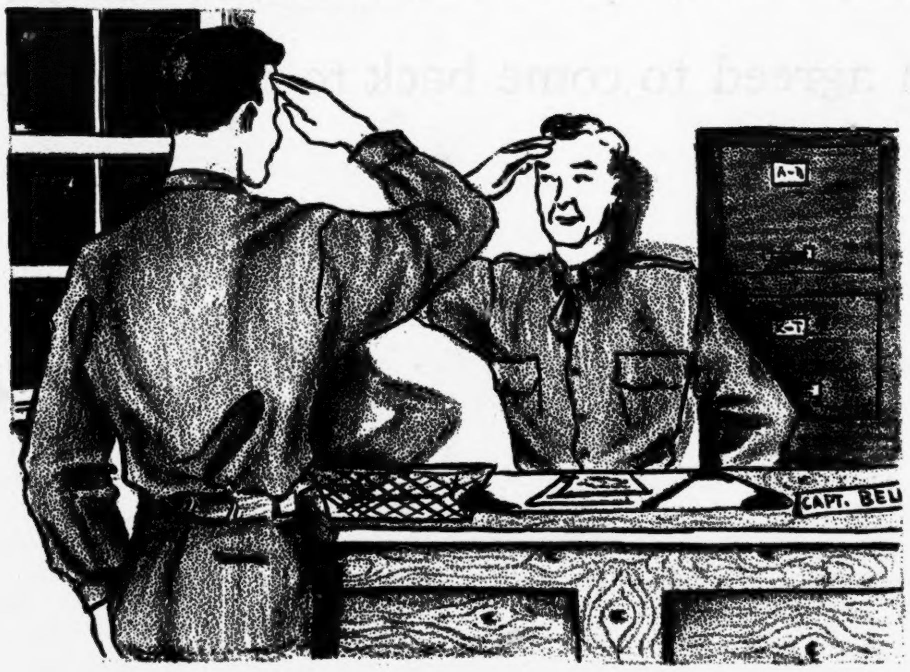
Chapter 21

PETE PLANS HIS FURLOUGH

Monday morning Pete reported to Captain Bell. He wanted to find out about his furlough. The news was good. Captain Bell told Pete that he could have seven days. His furlough would start in two weeks. Pete thanked the captain.

Captain Bell told Pete, "You have earned the furlough, Brown. We study our men. You have a good record."

Pete went back to the barracks, happy. He would see Bob and Sue before long. He had a lot to do in the next two weeks. A letter must be written to Sue. Pete must tell Sue the date his furlough started. Sue would have to let Mary know when she was coming to Washington.



Monday

Dearest Sue,

Captain Bell has given me a seven-day furlough. It starts in two weeks. I shall arrive in Washington on the fifteenth. I can let you know later where I shall stay.

Honey, I have been looking forward to seeing you for a long time. It seems too good to be true. Don't let anything happen to keep you from coming.

Bob wrote that it was O.K. He wants to date Mary. When you write to Mary, tell her the plans. Bob is sure he can get a leave at the same time. I must write to him tonight.

I have lots to do and must close now. Fourteen days until I see you!

Your loving,
Pete

Monday

Dear Bob,

My furlough came through. Captain Bell gave me seven days. It starts on the fifteenth. I have written to Sue. I told her you said it was O.K. for dates with Mary.

Sue should be at Mary's home when we get to Washington.

Are you sure you can get a leave, Bob?

I will write tomorrow, for a hotel room for both of us. Sergeant Hanna told me about the Hotel Senator. He said it is clean but does not cost much.

I plan to arrive in Washington late in the afternoon of the fifteenth. Can you meet me at the station? We ought to have a good time.

Your buddy,
Pete

The Hotel Senator wrote Pete that a room would be saved for him and Bob. Sergeant Hanna gave Pete a pass to go for his railroad ticket. He bought a round trip ticket. His ticket cost fourteen dollars ($14.00).

Pete wondered if he would have enough money. The double room in the Hotel Senator would cost four ($4.00) each day. His half would be two dollars ($2.00). They would stay in the hotel six nights. Pete tried to figure out how much money he would need. This is what Pete figured.

Hotel room	$12.00
Railroad ticket	14.00
Meals	24.00
Fun (shows, dances, etc.)	25.00
Total	$75.00

Pete had tried hard to save money. He had bought a Government Bond each pay day. He had saved eighty dollars ($80.00) in cash for the Washington trip.

Pete was not sure he had enough money. He had thought of asking Tex or Idaho for money.

Three days before Pete's furlough started, a letter came from home.

Tuesday

Dear Son,

Your father and I want you to have a good trip. This twenty-five dollars ($25.00) should help.

Have a good time. Your father says to tell us about the trip when you come home.

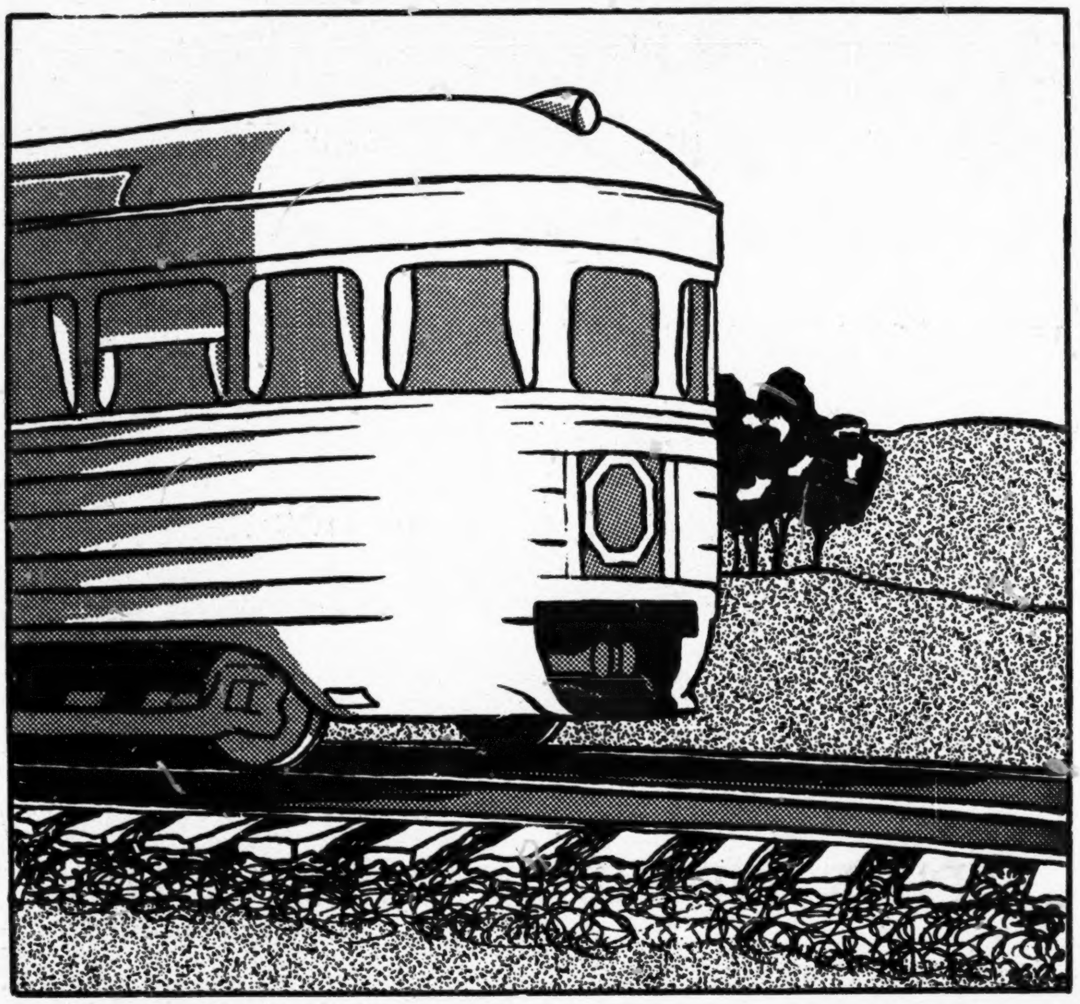
Love,
Mother

PART THREE

PETE AND BOB IN WASHINGTON

Chapter 22

BUDDIES MEET AGAIN



Pete found a seat on the train. He was on his way to Washington. Soon he would see Sue and Bob.

Pete was happy. His mother and father had been good to him. The twenty-five ($25.00) they had sent to him would help a lot. Now he knew he had enough money for the trip.

The train was a streamliner. Pete had never ridden on a better train. Pete thought it must be going eighty miles an hour!

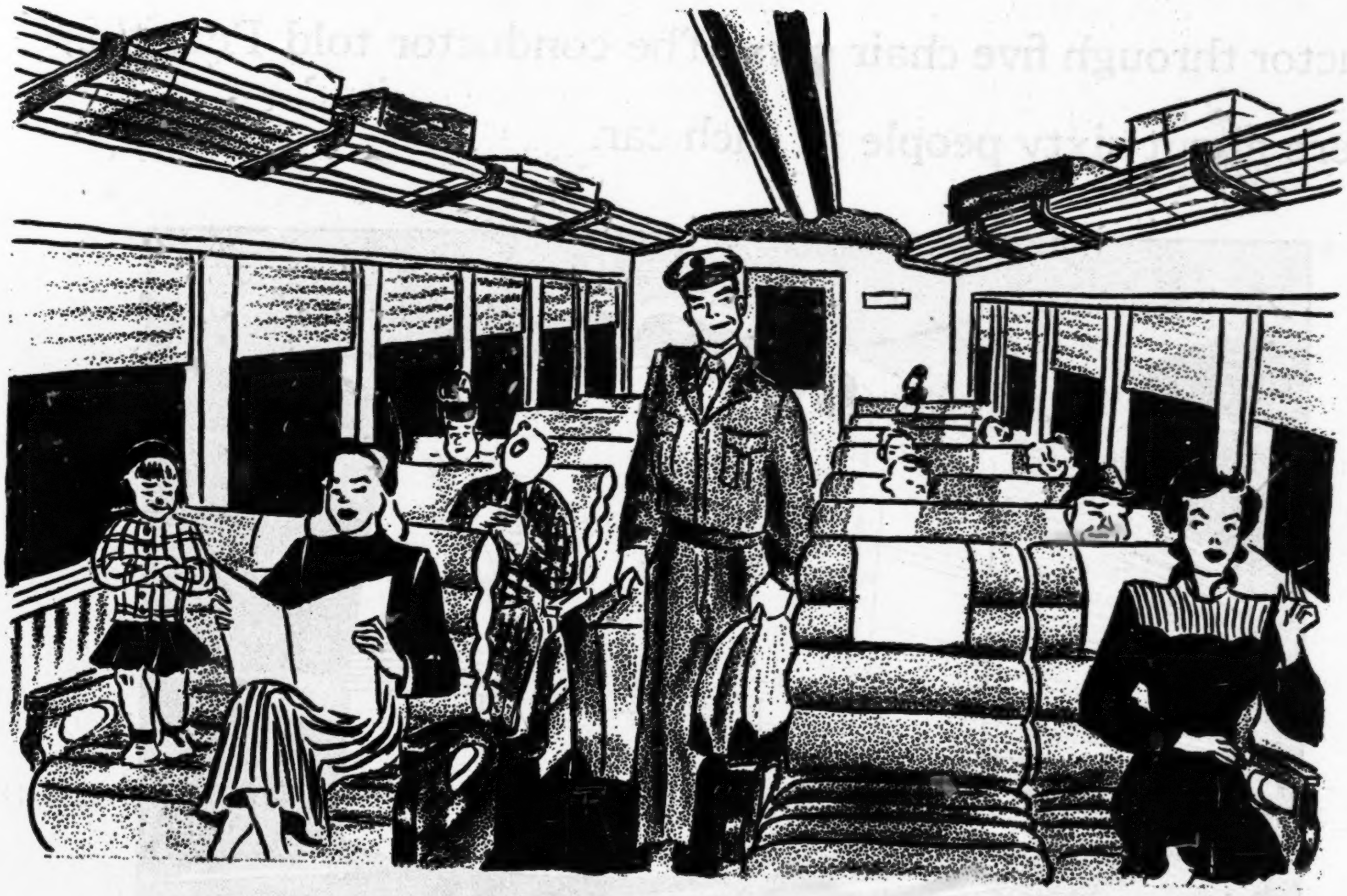
The conductor stopped to punch Pete's ticket. "Leaving the Army, son?" he asked.

"NO SIR! This is my first furlough!" Pete answered.

"You are a fine looking soldier," said the conductor.

"This is a mighty good train. I have never been on a streamliner before," answered Pete.

"This is the best train on the line," smiled the conductor. He left Pete. He had to finish punching tickets.



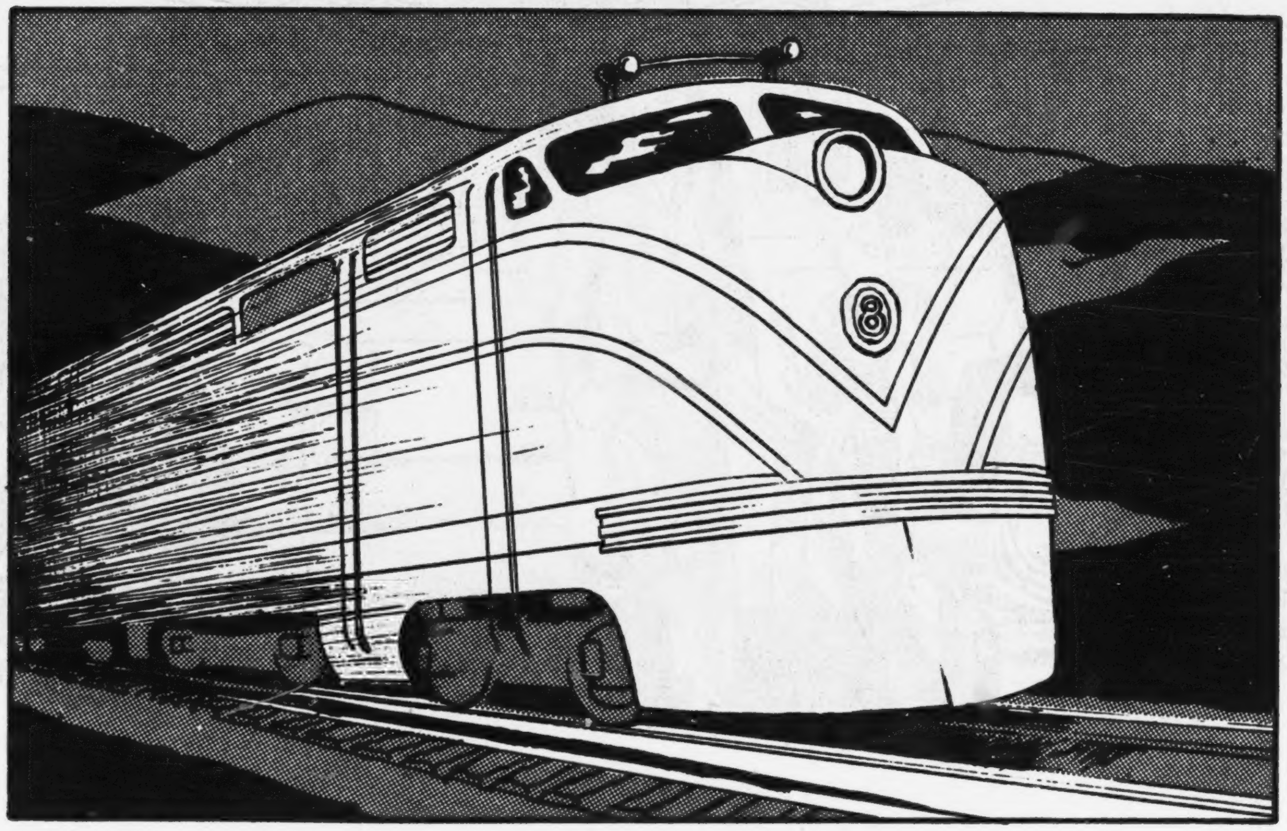
Pete was reading a newspaper when the conductor returned. The conductor again stopped by Pete's seat. "Did you say this is your first trip on a streamlined train?" he asked Pete.

"Yes, sir. It is," answered Pete.

"I have some time now," said the conductor. "Would you like to see the train with me?"

Pete gladly agreed.

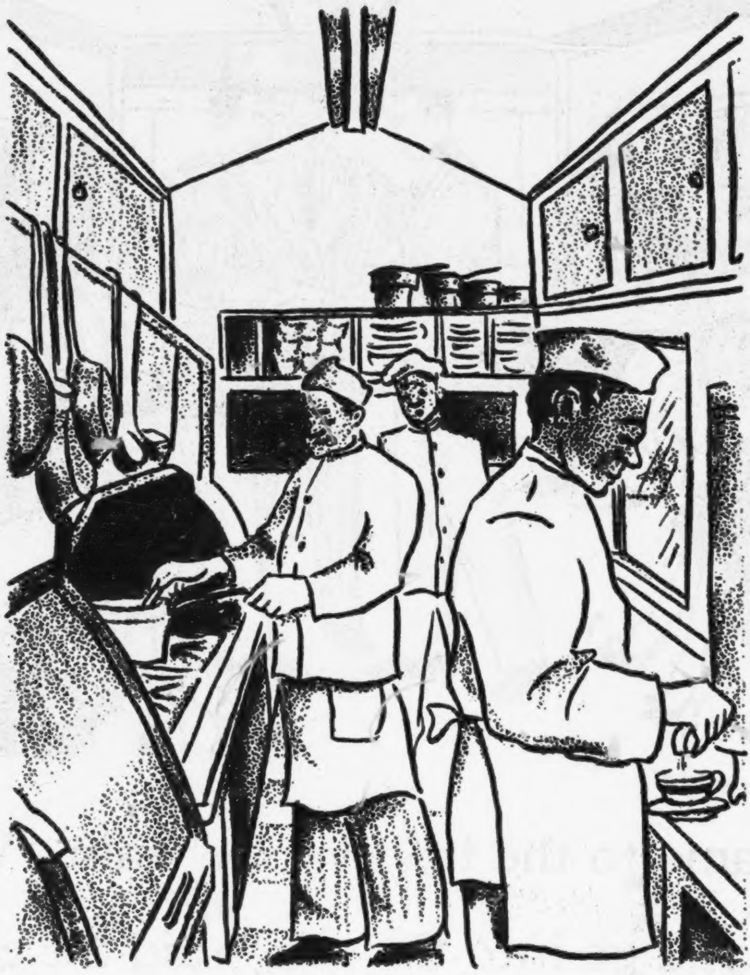
Pete's car was at the end of the train. He followed the conductor through five chair cars. The conductor told Pete there were about sixty people in each car.



Next came the dining car. Everything was clean and shiny. Pete thought of his train ride from Rivertown. He had eaten with Bob in a dining car then. This dining car looked much better.

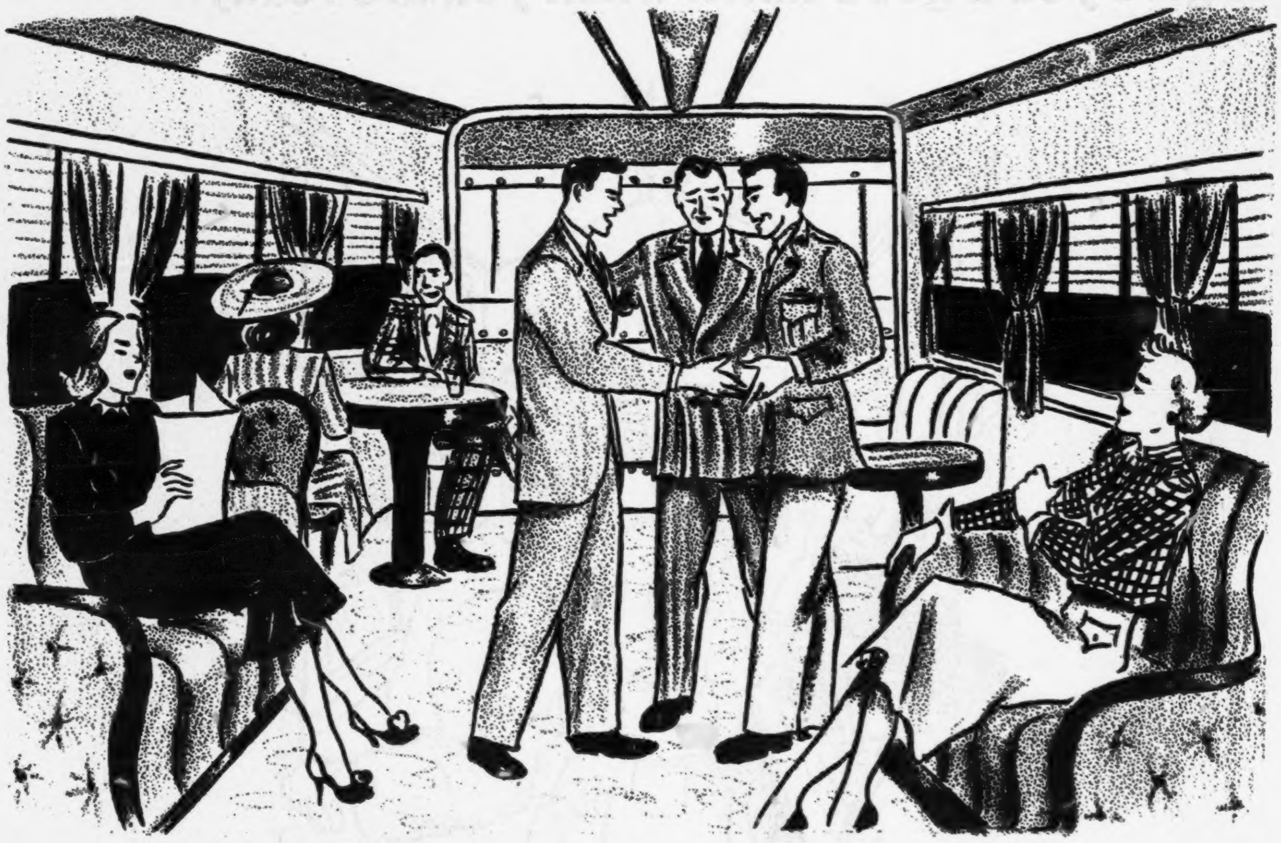
"I would like to see the kitchen," said Pete.

The conductor took Pete to the kitchen. There Pete met the head cook. Pete praised the kitchen. The head cook said, "I will give you a good lunch when you are ready."



The conductor and Pete walked through two more chair cars. Then they came to the lounge car. Here was a bar where all kinds of drinks were served. The chairs were deep and soft. Some of the people were having drinks. Some were reading. Others were talking.

"You should stay out of here, if you want to save your money," the conductor smiled at Pete.



Soon they came to the front of the train. "We shall ask the engineer to let you go into the cab," said the conductor.

The engineer agreed and Pete went into the cab. The engineer explained to Pete how he drove the train.

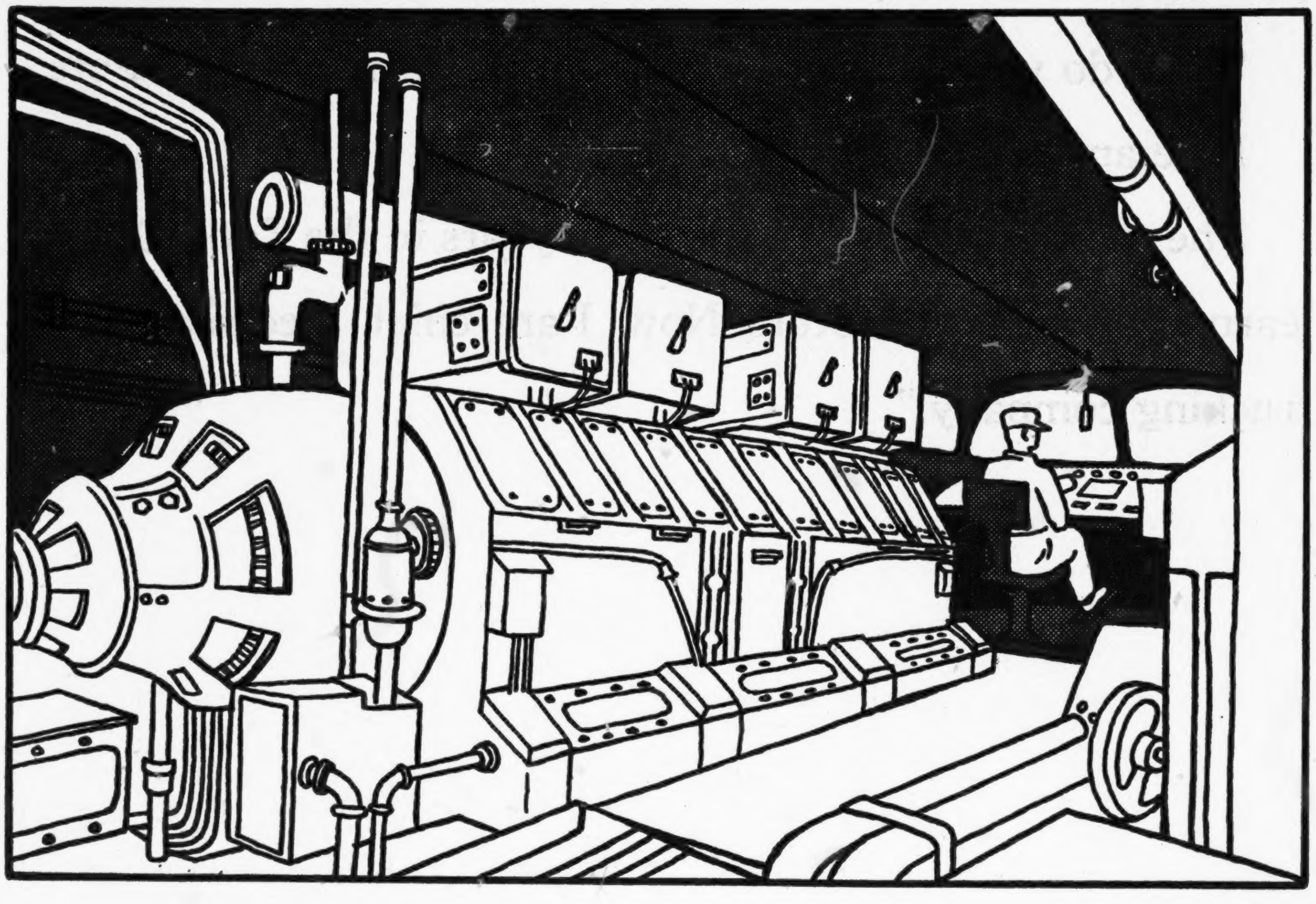
He told Pete how the big Diesel engine worked.

Pete asked, "What does a Diesel engine use for fuel?"

The engineer answered, "Some Diesels use fine coal. The engine pulling this train burns oil."

"How fast will this train go?" asked Pete.

The engineer smiled. "I have driven this train faster than one hundred miles an hour!" he answered.



Pete thanked the engineer and the conductor. Now he was ready for that good lunch the head cook had promised him.

When Pete entered the dining car, the head waiter seated him with two other men. Pete looked at the menu. The prices of the meals seemed very high. Pete thought of his Washington plans. He thought that he should not spend much money for this lunch. Pete ordered a ham sandwich for fifty cents. He also asked for a glass of milk. The milk cost fifteen cents. Pete wondered, "What would a Camp Allen meal cost, at these prices?"

"How do you like the Army?" one of the men asked Pete.

Pete answered, "Pretty well."

The man explained, "I spent six years in the Tank Corps. I learned a lot about motors. Now I am chief mechanic for a trucking company."

The waiter came with the lunch. "It looks good," said one of the men, looking at the big meal.

Pete said, "I just ordered a sandwich and a glass of milk."

The waiter smiled. "The head cook promised you a good lunch. This is his treat. This meal does not cost you a cent."

This is the lunch the head cook sent Pete: cream of tomato soup, creamed chicken, mashed potatoes, peas, apple salad, butter, rolls, coffee, and ice cream.

The chief mechanic said. "What a lunch! I wish I were a young soldier again. That head cook must have been in the Army, himself."

Pete enjoyed the meal very much. When he finished eating, he went to the kitchen and thanked the head cook.

After lunch Pete returned to his seat in the chair car. The soft chair and the big lunch soon put him to sleep. He slept for two hours.

The next thing Pete heard was the conductor saying, "We shall be in Washington in one hour."

Pete shook his head. Two hours had passed quickly. He thought he should wash up before he left the train. Bob had never seen him in his Army uniform. Pete wanted to look his best.

After Pete washed up, he returned to his seat. He thought, "I should read Bob's letter again. Where was he going to meet me? At the railroad station? In the hotel?" He took the letter from his pocket.

Wednesday

Dear Pete,

I thought I should write another note to you. I shall meet you at the station. Look for me at the gate where you enter the station.

My train arrives thirty minutes before your train gets in.

We can go to the Hotel Senator together. I hope Sue and Mary are all ready for us. Do you think you will know me in my Blues?

Here's hoping for a big week.

Your buddy,

Bob

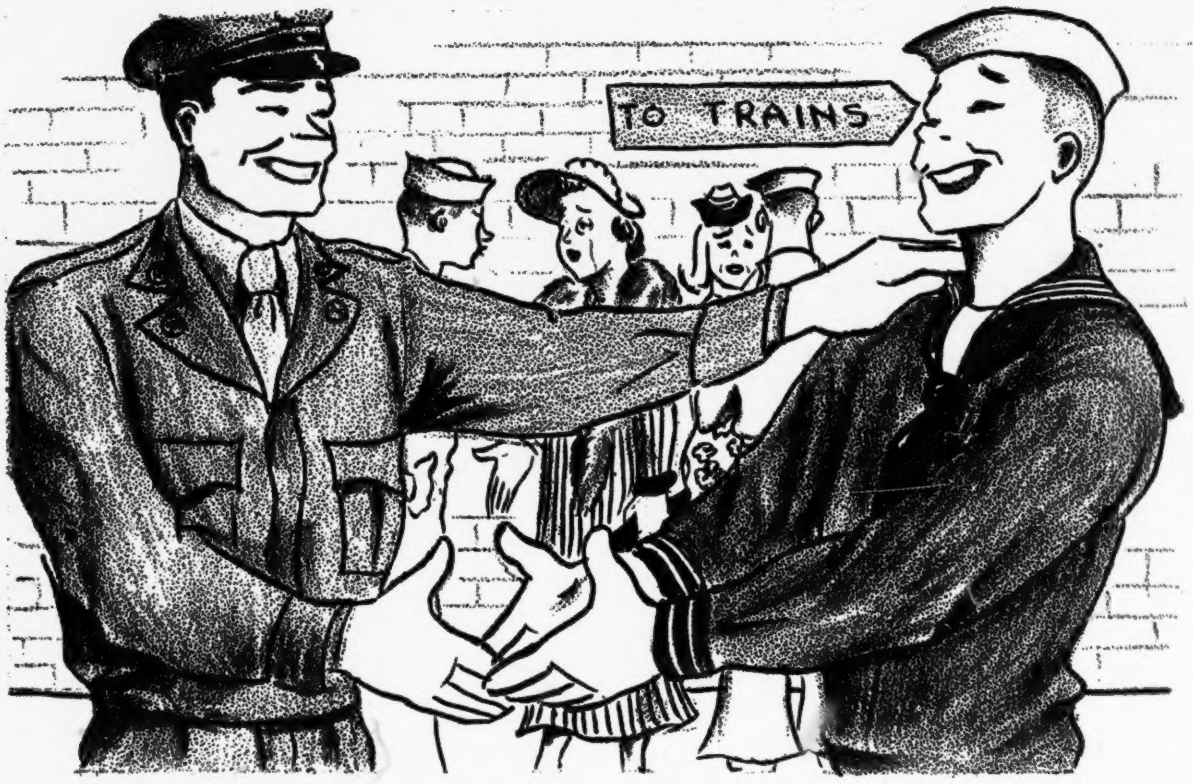
The train entered the station soon after Pete had read Bob's letter. Pete was the first one off the train. He ran up the steps, two at a time. When he reached the gate, he looked eagerly for Bob.

Pete saw several men in Navy Blues. No one of them looked like the Bob he knew. Pete looked again. One of the sailors did look a little like Bob. But he looked taller and heavier than Bob – Yes, it was Bob!

Bob smiled. "I thought you might not know me!"

Pete rushed to Bob. "Gee, it is good to see you, Bob," he said.

"It is good to see you, too, Buddy," answered Bob.



Pete stepped back and looked Bob over.

"You do not look like the fellow I knew in Rivertown."

Bob smiled, "Fifteen pounds and Navy Dress Blues make a lot of difference." Bob explained, "You have changed plenty, too, Pete. That is a snappy looking outfit."

The two buddies found a taxicab and were off for the Hotel Senator.

Chapter 23

PLANS FOR A BIG EVENING

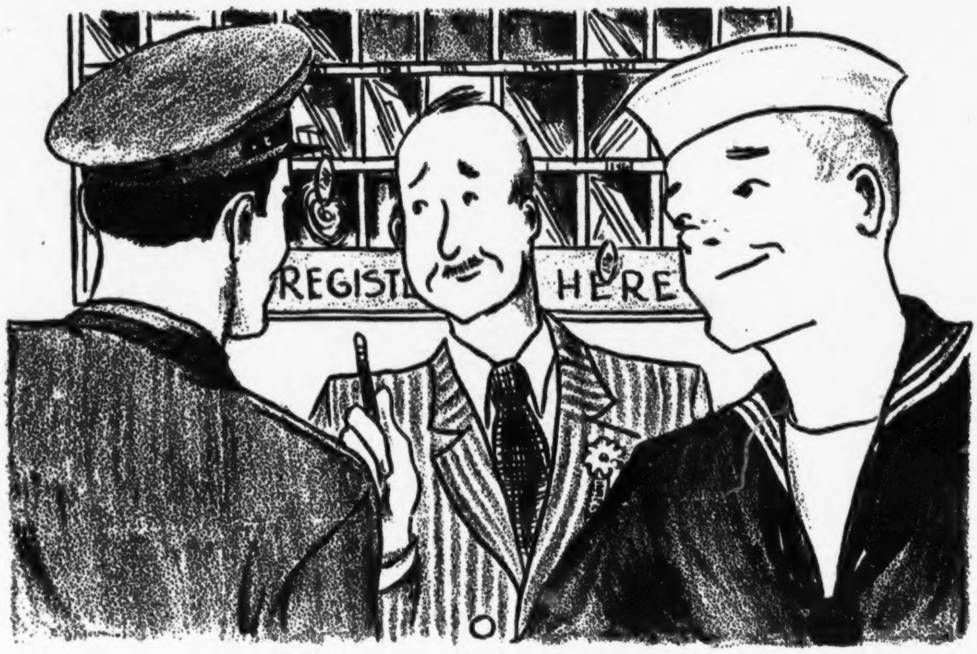
The Hotel Senator is in downtown Washington. After a short ride, the buddies arrived at the hotel in the taxicab. As they walked into the lobby of the hotel, a bellboy took their bags.

"This way to the desk," he said.

Pete said to the room clerk, "My name is Pete Brown. Do you have a room for Bob Jones and me?"

"Did you make a reservation?" asked the room clerk.

"Yes, I wrote you a letter and I have your answer with me," said Pete, taking the letter from his pocket.

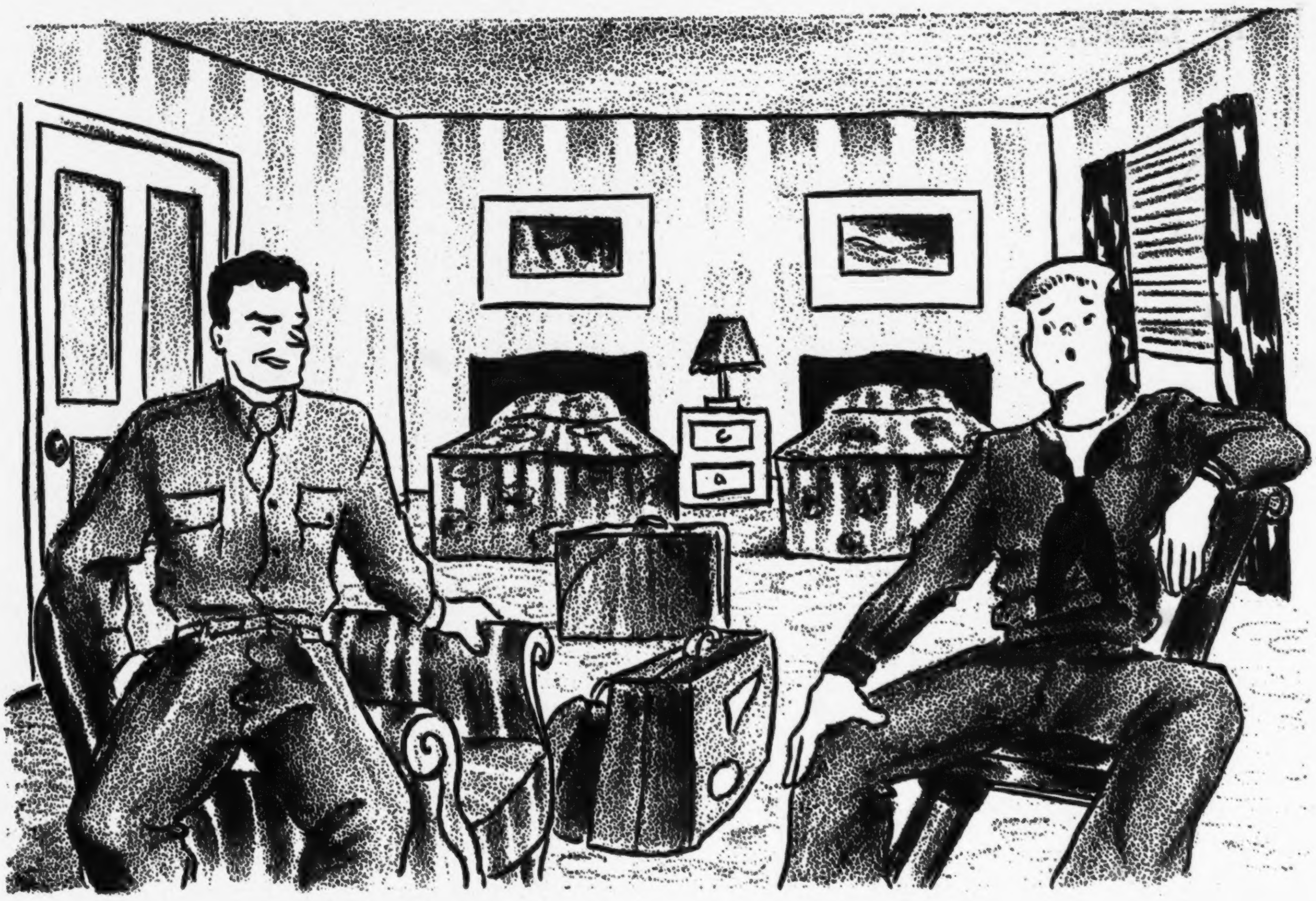


The room clerk found the reservation. The room reserved for Pete and Bob was room number 430. The bellboy took the keys and the men went to the elevator.

Soon the buddies were in their hotel room. It was a large room with twin beds. There was one large easy chair. There were two straight back chairs. In the corner was a small desk. There was a bathtub and a shower in the bathroom.

Pete and Bob looked around the room as the bellboy left. "They reserved a nice room for us," said Bob.

"Yes, I am glad I wrote ahead of time," answered Pete.



"This sack should let me sleep well," said Bob, sitting on one of the beds.

Pete smiled, "It feels different from my sack at camp."

"I think I will try that bathtub. I have not had a good long soak in a tub since I left home," said Bob.

"You take your bath, while I call Sue," answered Pete.

Pete called Mary's home on the telephone. Mrs. Barnes, Mary's mother, answered the phone. Soon Pete was talking with Sue. She had arrived from Rivertown the day before. Sue was very excited. Pete and Sue talked over the telephone a long time.

Sue and Pete made plans for the evening. They talked about going to see a movie. But Sue thought they should go to some place where they could talk. Mary had talked to Sue about dancing. Bob and Pete both liked to dance.

It was agreed that Sue and Mary would come down town. They would meet Bob and Pete in the hotel lobby. Since it was almost dinner time, the buddies would eat before the girls arrived. Eight o'clock in the hotel lobby was the time and place agreed upon.

"Hurry up with that bath. We meet the girls at eight o'clock," called Pete as he put down the phone.

"O.K., Pete. I'll be right out. Is everything all set?" said Bob.

"Yes, everything is all set! And Mary is all excited about meeting you. Sue told her that you are a good dancer. The girls want to go dancing tonight," said Pete.

"Dancing suits me. I hope Mary is as good a dancer as Sue says she is," smiled Bob.

Bob soon finished his bath. He took a clean suit of Blues from his bag. Bob brushed his uniform and shined his shoes. Pete shaved and took a shower bath. The buddies talked as they dressed for the evening.

"The Navy must be a soft life!" laughed Pete.

"What do you mean, soft?" asked Bob.

"You didn't gain fifteen pounds from hard work, did you?" Pete went on.

"The harder the Navy works me, the more I eat. The more I eat, the more weight I gain," smiled Bob.

"You really are in good shape, Bob," said Pete.

Bob told Pete that the Navy recruit training puts a man in fine condition. He told about drilling, rowing small boats, and the work details. Bob had been a poor swimmer when he went into the Navy. He told Pete that he had had an hour of swimming every day. A chief taught him to swim well. Bob told Pete that he had passed his Class A swimming test. The Navy wants all of its men to be good swimmers.

The buddies talked some more about the Army and Navy. Soon they were dressed and ready to go out. How neat they looked! Bob in blue, Pete in khaki. Their uniforms were clean and pressed, their shoes shined. The sailor and soldier were ready to go.

Bob said, “We have time for a milk shake and a sandwich before the girls arrive.”

Pete answered, "That sounds good to me. It is seven o'clock now. We have an hour."

Bob added, "We don't want to keep the girls waiting."

Pete laughed, "You know that I am not going to make Sue wait.

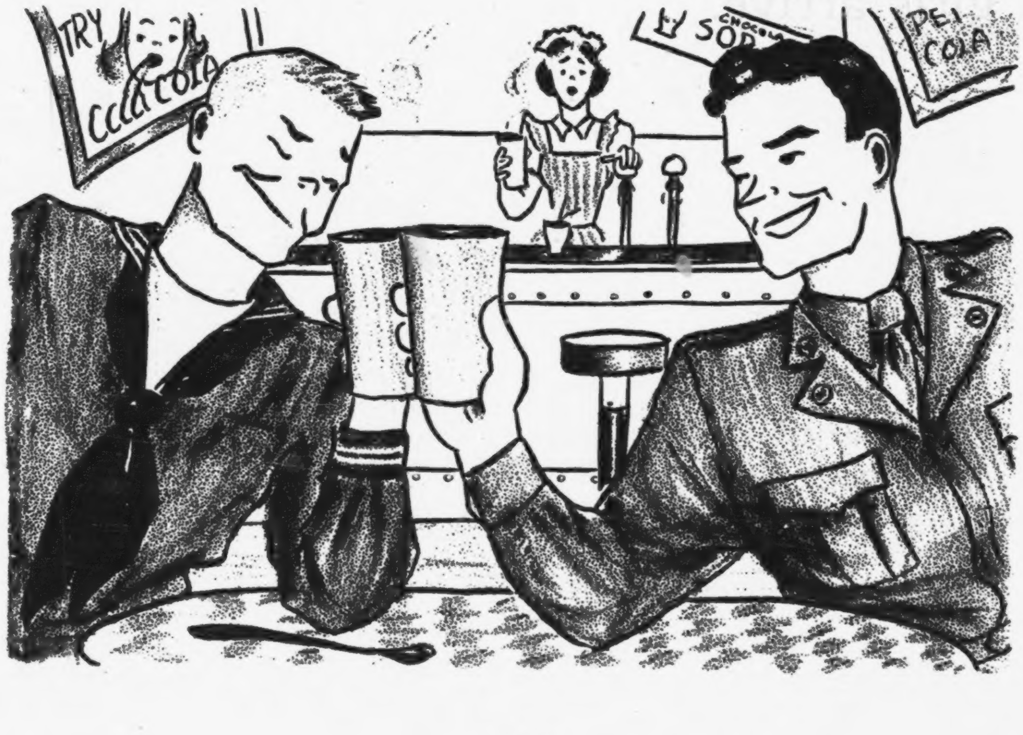
The buddies agreed to go to the hotel snack bar for their sandwiches and milk shakes.

They sat down at a table. The waiter smiled, "The Army and Navy together!"

"That is right. And a milk shake for each," answered Pete.

Bob held up his milk shake. "Here is to the Army and Navy," he said.

"Right!" said Pete. "And here is to a big evening."



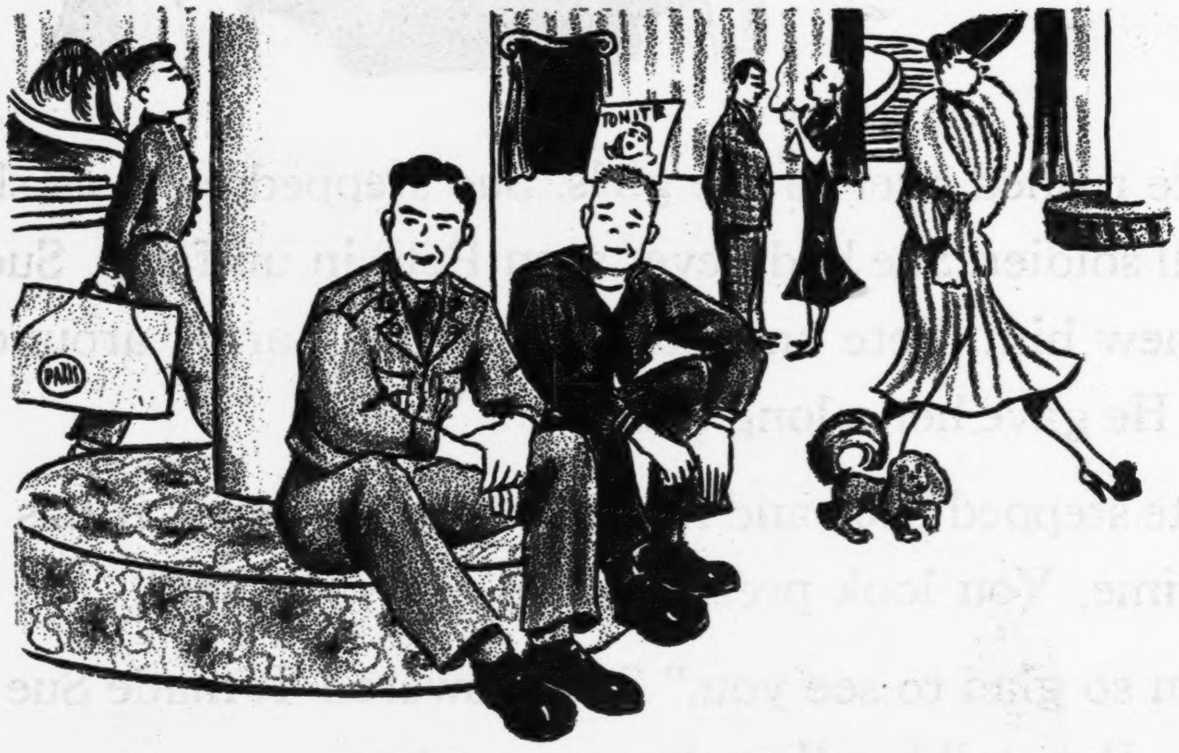
Chapter 24

AN EVENING OF FUN

At ten minutes before eight o'clock, the buddies were in the hotel lobby. They watched the doors. They looked all around.

Pete tried to remember how Sue looked. He remembered her hair. He smiled as he thought of her funny little hats. How would she look now? He was sure that she would look pretty.

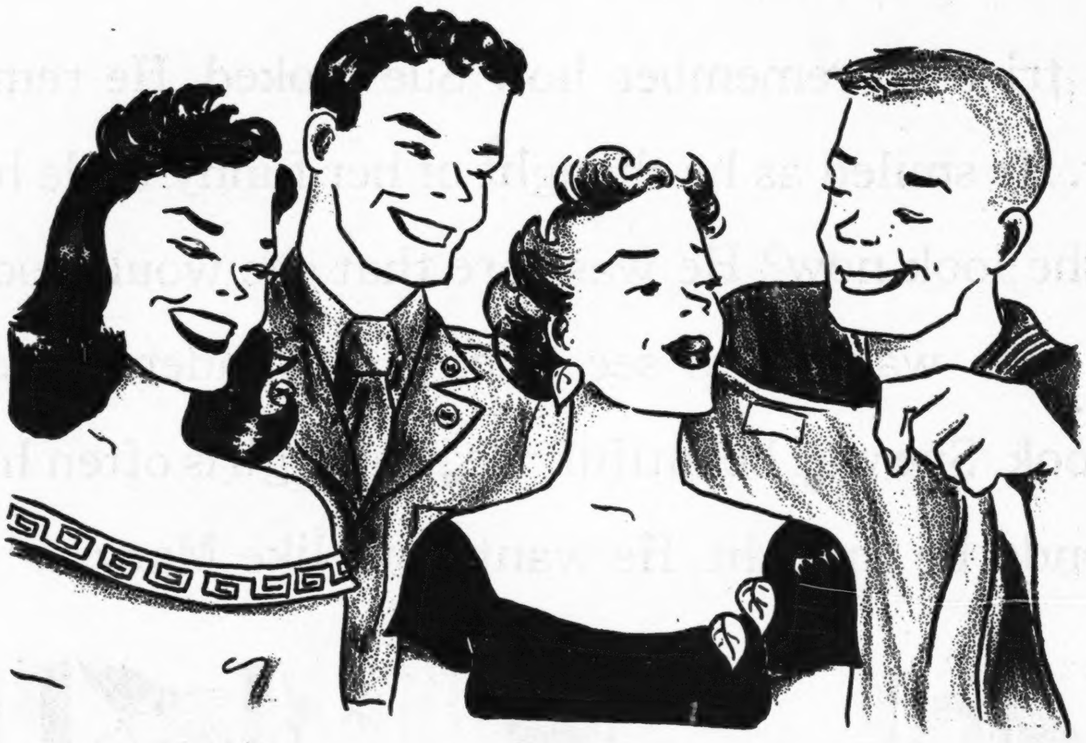
Bob also wanted to see Sue. He wondered how Mary would look. Sue was beautiful. Beautiful girls often have plain girl friends, he thought. He wanted to like Mary.



It was now eight o'clock. "Have they gone to the wrong hotel?" wondered Pete.

"Are you sure you told Sue the Hotel Senator?" asked Bob.

"Here they come. There is Sue," said Pete. He was looking at two girls walking into the lobby.



Pete rushed over to the girls. Sue stepped back as she saw the tall soldier. She had never seen Pete in uniform. Suddenly she knew him. Pete and Sue threw their arms around each other. He gave her a long kiss.

Pete stepped back and looked at Sue. "Honey, it has been a long time. You look prettier than ever," he said.

"I'm so glad to see you," Sue answered. It made Sue happy to have Pete tell her that she was pretty.

Pete then met Mary. She was almost as pretty as Sue, he thought. He called Bob over. Bob spoke to Sue and met Mary. Pete thought Bob would like Mary. Bob thought Mary was as pretty as Sue.

Mary told Bob that she was glad to meet him. "Sue has told me so much about you," she said.

"I'm lucky, Mary is just my type," Bob said to himself.

"Let's sit down and talk," said Sue.

Sue and Pete were a good looking couple. They found a double seat and began to talk. They forgot about Bob and Mary! Sue wanted to know all about the Army. She asked Pete many questions. Pete told Sue that he had tried hard to make good. He told her what Captain Bell had said about his good record in the Army.

Sue had talked with Pete's mother and father before she left Rivertown. They sent their love to their son. Pete told Sue about the gift of twenty-five dollars. Sue and Pete talked on and on.

Mary and Bob sat nearby. At first they did not have much to say. Soon Bob was telling Mary about his Navy training. Mary smiled and asked questions. Bob told her about the big ships he had been on. During his training he had gone to Norfolk. There he had gone aboard a battleship and a destroyer.

Mary told Bob about her family and her job. Mary worked as a clerk in a drug store. She liked her work. But she was studying at night to get a better job.

"Studying is the way to get ahead," said Bob. "You have to know something about the work to get a good job."

After a while Sue and Pete joined them. "You two have talked enough. Let's go dance," said Sue.

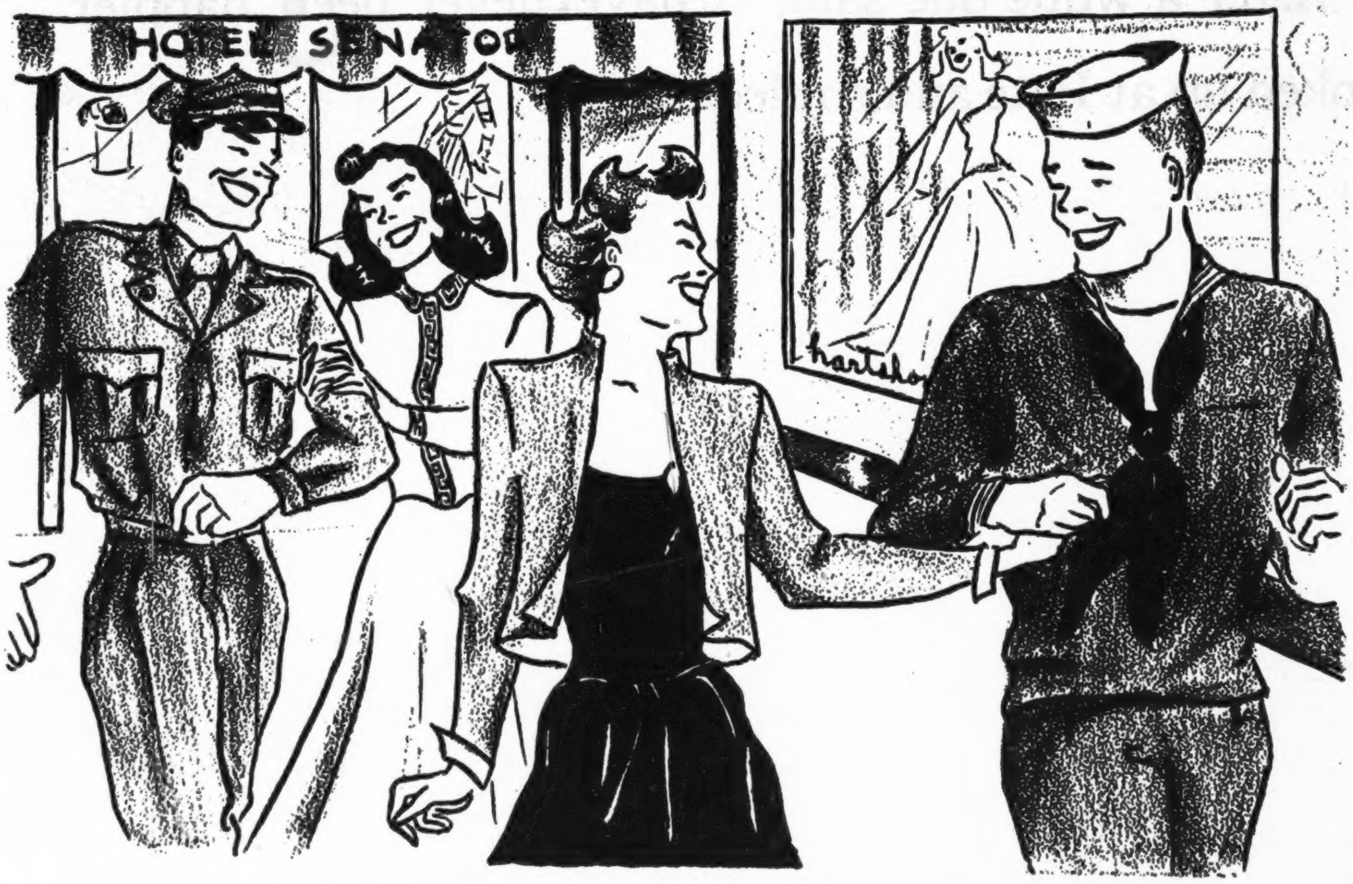
"That's a good idea," answered Bob.

Mary said, "Sue and I know a good place. It is Danceland."

Sue added, "Bob Crosby and His Bobcats are playing there."

The friends agreed to go dancing and left the hotel. Pete and Bob wanted to take a taxi. Sue said she wanted to walk. Danceland was not far. Mary agreed and said that taxicabs cost too much.

Mary's answer pleased Bob. For many girls, having a good date meant spending a lot of money. He thought Mary was sensible about money.



Pete, Sue, and Bob had never seen such a large dance floor. There were hundreds of dancers on the floor. But there was plenty of room. The dancers were not crowded.

The band was seated on a large platform. Pete had listened to Bob Crosby on the radio. Now he would dance to the music of the Bobcats! Sue was thrilled.

"Rivertown was never like this!" thought Bob.

Bob Crosby's band began playing "Stardust." The two couples walked onto the dance floor.

"It's been a long time since we danced together, honey," said Pete. He put his arm around Sue and they began to dance.

After a while Sue said, "I have never been happier." She looked up at Pete and smiled.

Bob and Mary danced well together. Mary liked to dance. Bob enjoyed dancing when he had a good partner.

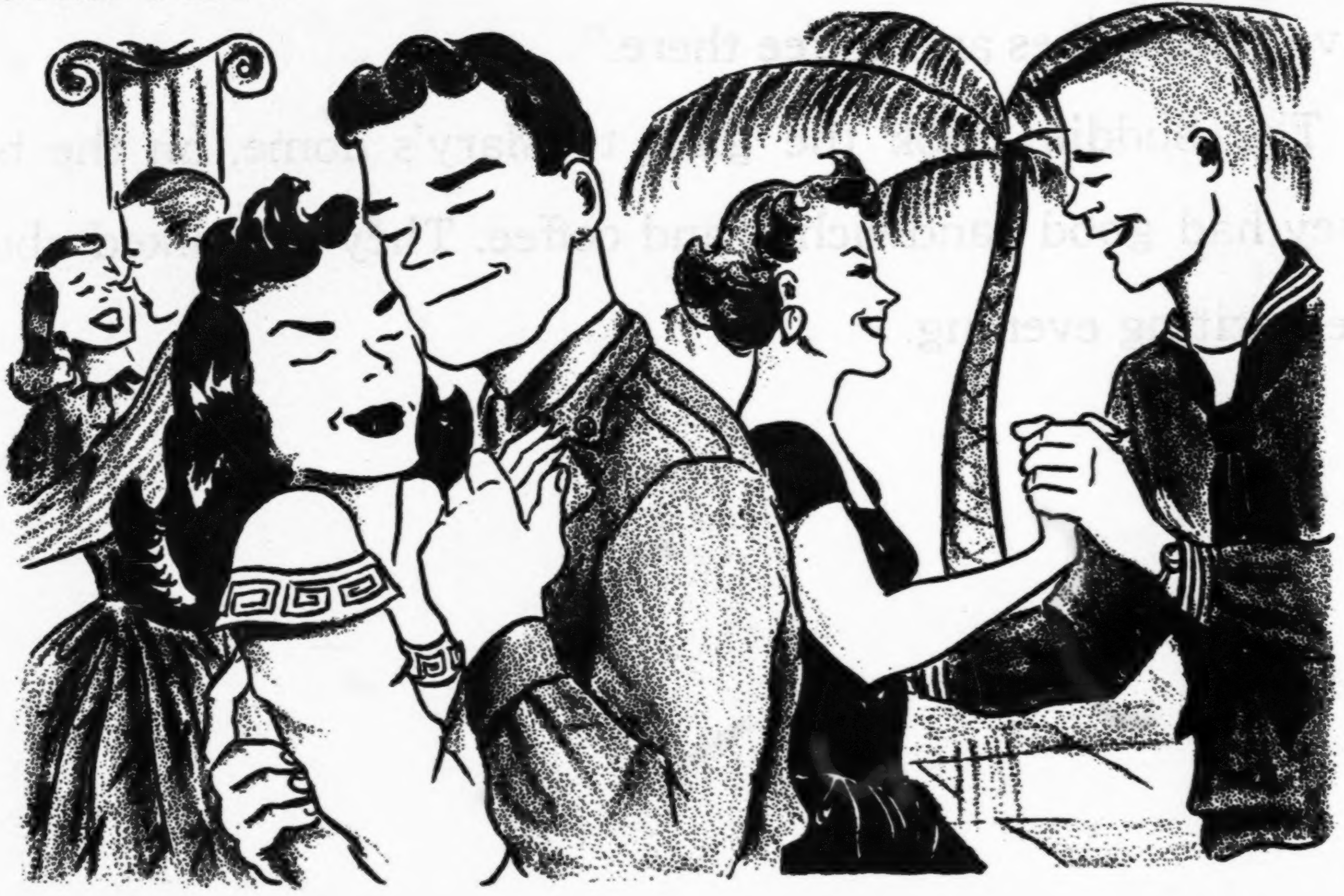
Bob said to Mary, "I am having a good time."

"Isn't that music grand?" answered Mary.

The two couples danced for a long time. The music seemed better and better. Sometimes Bob Crosby sang. Pete and Sue danced near the band. Sue asked Crosby to sing "Remember." He smiled at Sue and agreed.

Later Bob Crosby saw the two couples near the band platform. He walked over to them. Crosby shook hands with each of them.

"I like to meet men in the Service," he said. "Every night that I play, I meet someone from the Air Force, Army, Navy, or Coast Guard."



Crosby asked Pete and Bob where they were stationed. He wanted to know how long they had been in uniform. He said to Sue and Mary, "You had better watch these men. Girls go for these uniforms."

"That's good news to me," said Bob, smiling at Mary.

"Sue does not have to worry about me," said Pete.

Bob Crosby wished them good luck. He walked back to the band platform.

The dance ended soon after they met Bob Crosby.

Pete said, "Let's get some hamburgers and coffee."

Mary said, "Let's wait until we get to my house. We will have sandwiches and coffee there."

The buddies took the girls to Mary's home, on the bus. They had good sandwiches and coffee. They all talked about the exciting evening.

The friends agreed to go sightseeing in Washington the next afternoon.

Sue and Pete walked out on the porch to say good night. Bob told Mary that he liked her very much. Mary surprised Bob by letting him kiss her good night.

On the way home, the buddies agreed that it had been an evening of fun.

Chapter 25

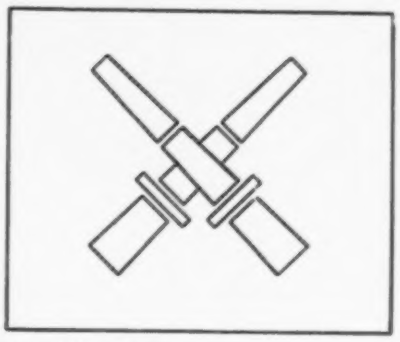
BOB TELLS PETE ABOUT THE NAVY

The buddies slept a long time. Travel and dancing had made them tired. It was ten o'clock in the morning when they got up.

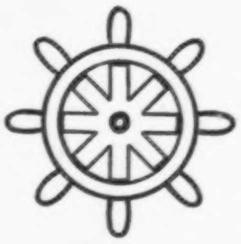
Pete and Bob were hungry. They ate eggs, bacon, and pancakes for breakfast. Each had two cups of coffee. They talked about the fun they had had the night before.

After breakfast the buddies went back to the hotel. Pete said, "Bob I want you to tell me more about the Navy. What is it like? Are you going to stay in?"

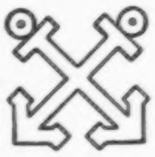
Bob told Pete about the many types of duty in the Navy. He explained to Pete why the Navy had special branches. He told Pete the Navy had many special branches.



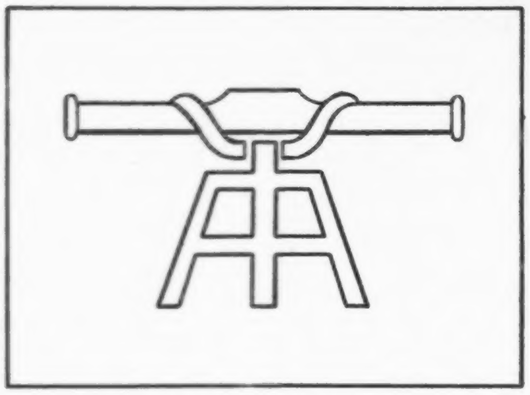
GUNNER'S MATE



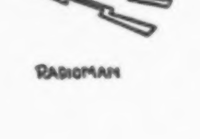
QUARTERMASTER
"SIGNALMAN"



BOATSWAIN'S MATE



FIRE CONTROLMAN



RADIOMAN

Bob had thought about being a boatswain, a fireman, a gunner, a radioman, or a signalman. These were the branches that he liked best.

Pete wanted to know more about the special branches in the Navy. Bob told Pete as much as he knew.

"Which branch will you try to get into?" Pete asked Bob.

Bob said that he did not know for sure. He had tried to find out about the duties of a boatswain, a fireman, a gunner, a radioman, and a signalman.

Bob told Pete that he sometimes thought radioman would be best for him. He explained that he already knew a little about radio. Bob told Pete that he could learn a lot as a radioman.

Pete asked Bob, "Can you get ahead fast as a radioman?"

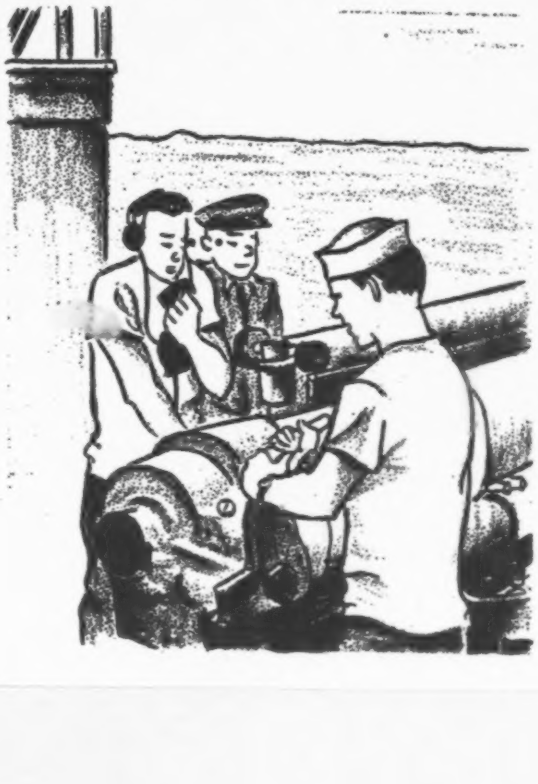
Bob answered that men get ahead fastest in work they like best. He also told Pete, "A man can learn a lot as a radioman that can help him in civilian life. A man could be radio operator at an airport. He could have a radio store. He might work in a radio station, or be a radio repairman."

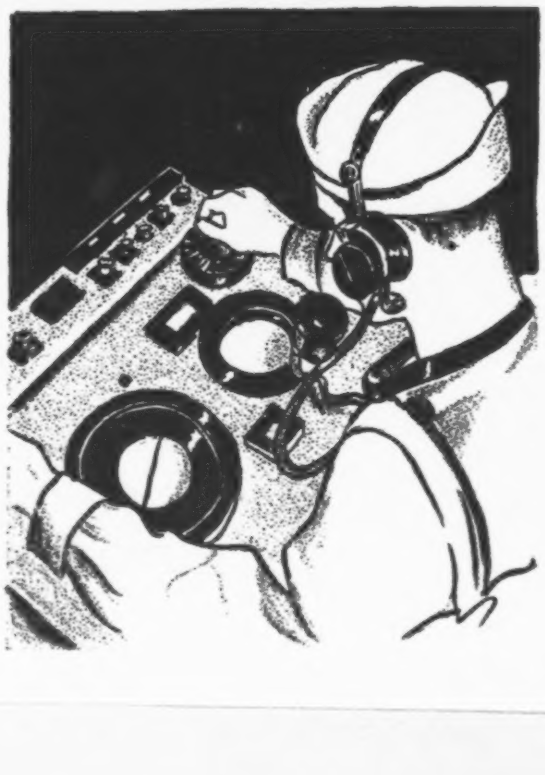
"You are going to stay in the Navy, aren't you?" asked Pete.

"Yes. I am pretty sure I shall stay in the Navy," answered Bob.

He went on, "But you never know. It is good to learn something you can use in civilian life."

Bob told Pete about the educational program in the Navy. "Some men learn to read better," he said. "Some study history and geography. Others study arithmetic. There are many things to study."

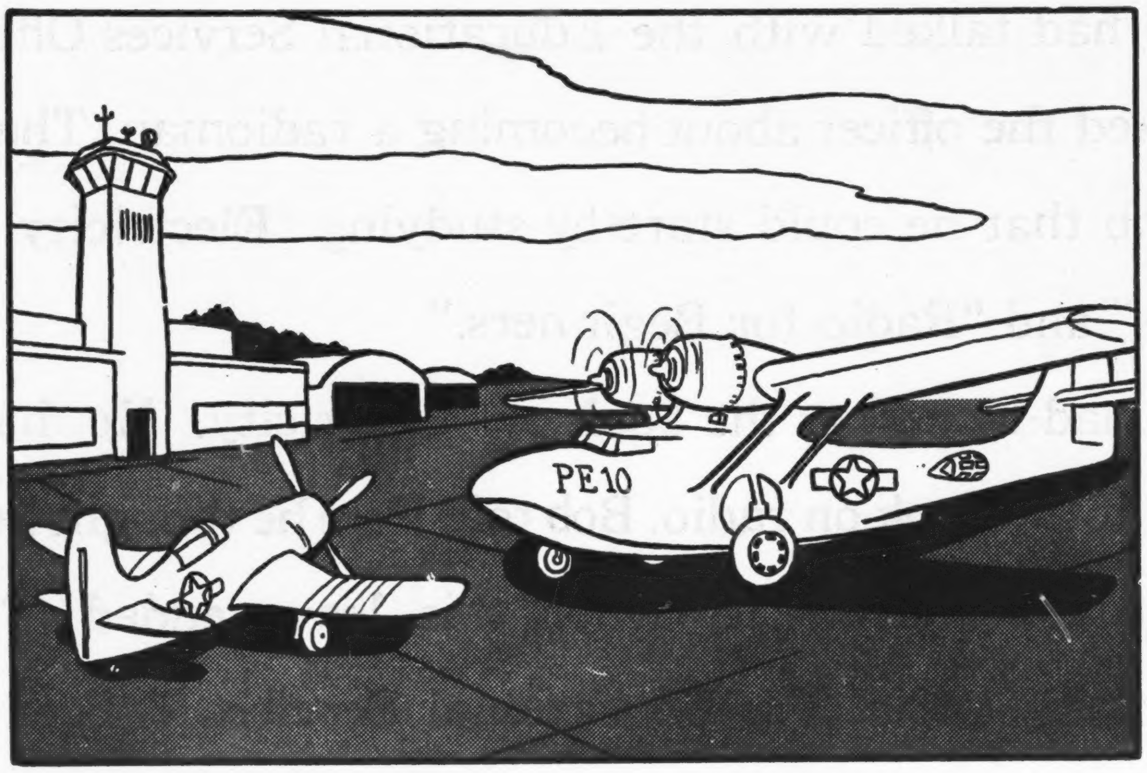




Bob had talked with the Educational Services Officer. He had asked the officer about becoming a radioman. The officer told Bob that he could start by studying "Electricity for Beginners" and "Radio for Beginners."

Bob had looked at the book on electricity. He had also looked at the book on radio. Bob told Pete he thought he would start studying electricity when this leave ended. Then he would study radio. The Educational Services Officer said a man would help him.

Bob told Pete he thought the Navy had a good educational program. He said most of the men were studying something. Pete then told Bob about the Army educational program. They agreed that the Army and Navy want their men to learn.



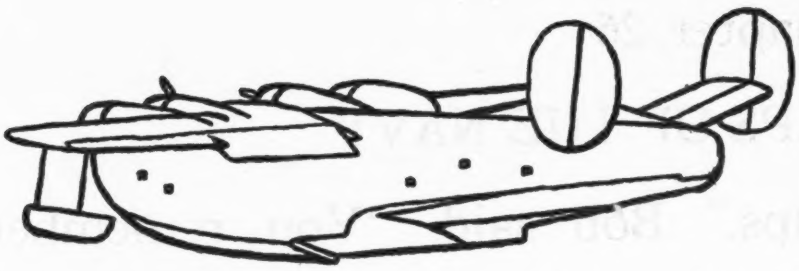
Pete asked Bob, "If you were a radioman, where would you be stationed?"

Bob answered, "The Navy needs radiomen everywhere. Sometimes I would be stationed ashore. Every Navy shore station has radiomen."

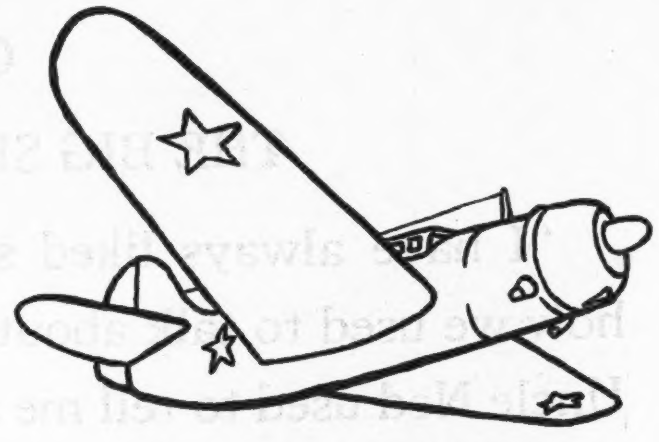
Bob added, "I could be an aviation radioman. Most Navy airplanes carry a radioman. Radio is a big job on the patrol bombers. Most of the Navy patrol bombers are seaplanes. They land on the water. These large seaplanes fly as long as ten or twelve hours. During that time the radioman has an important job. He sends and receives messages."

Pete asked Bob, "How large are those patrol bombers?"

Bob said, "They are larger than the old bombers of the Air Force. But they are much smaller than the B 29 or the B 36.



PB2Y "CORONADO"

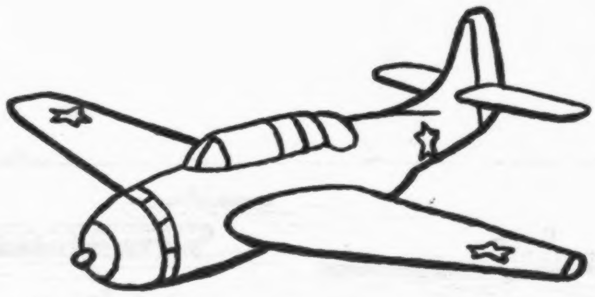


SB2C "HELLDIVER"

"The dive bomber is a small plane. It has a crew of two men. One man is the pilot. The other one is the radioman. The radioman is also the rear gunner.

"Torpedo bombers carry three men in the crew. One of them is a radioman. He is a gunner, too."

Bob told Pete that he had learned a little about aviation radio. He had been reading and talking with a chief about it. He had never been up in an airplane.



TBF "AVENGER"

Chapter 26

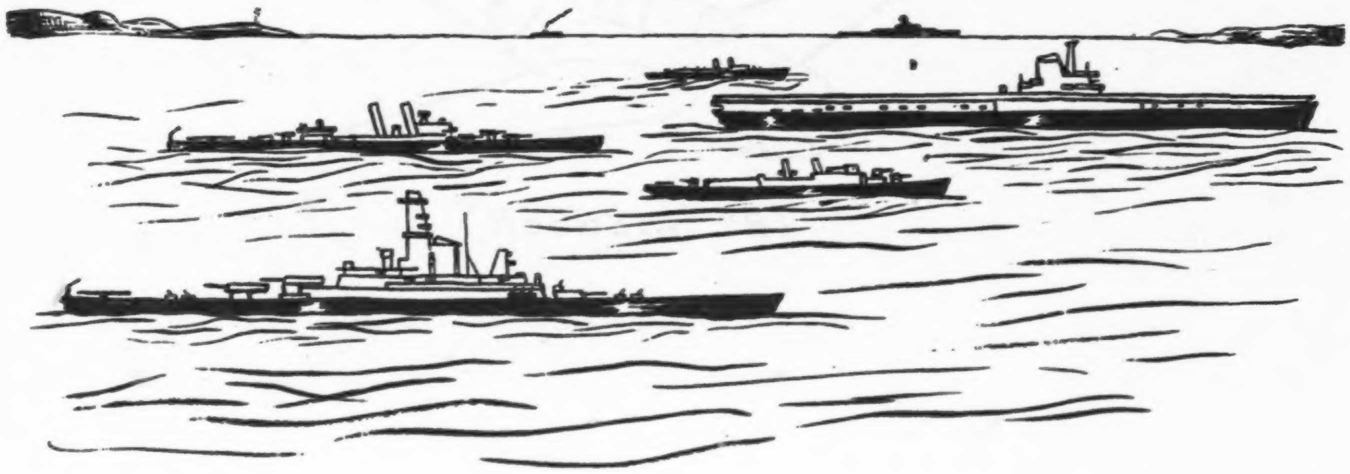
THE BIG SHIPS OF THE NAVY

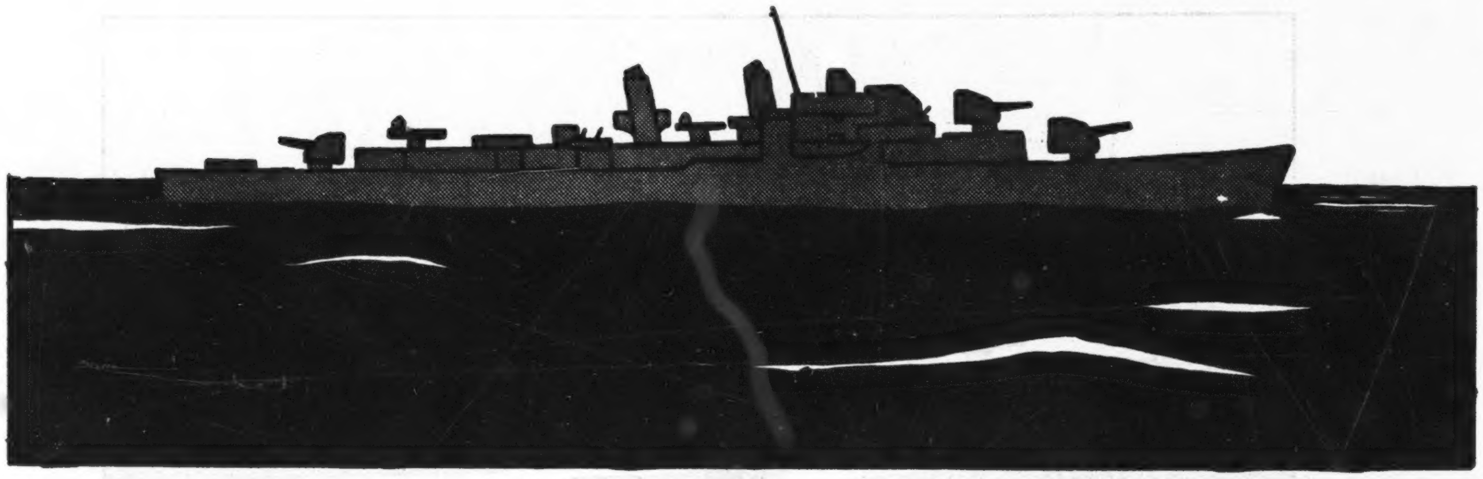
"I have always liked ships," Bob said. "You remember how we used to talk about the Navy ships when we were kids? Uncle Ned used to tell me about the ships. I think I would like radio. But I am sure I want to be on a ship.

"The training program at Dewey is good," Bob went on. "They told us a lot about ships. We learned about battleships, cruisers, destroyers, and aircraft carriers.

"One day we went to Norfolk Naval Station. We went aboard a new destroyer. It was a beautiful ship. The ship was clean and polished. Everything was in order and shipshape. The crew of that destroyer was proud. The crew had a right to be. I would like to be aboard her myself."

Bob went to his bag. He took out some pictures. They were pictures of Navy ships. He had a picture of the destroyer he had visited.





DESTROYER

Bob told Pete about the destroyer he had visited. "This destroyer is four hundred feet long," Bob said.

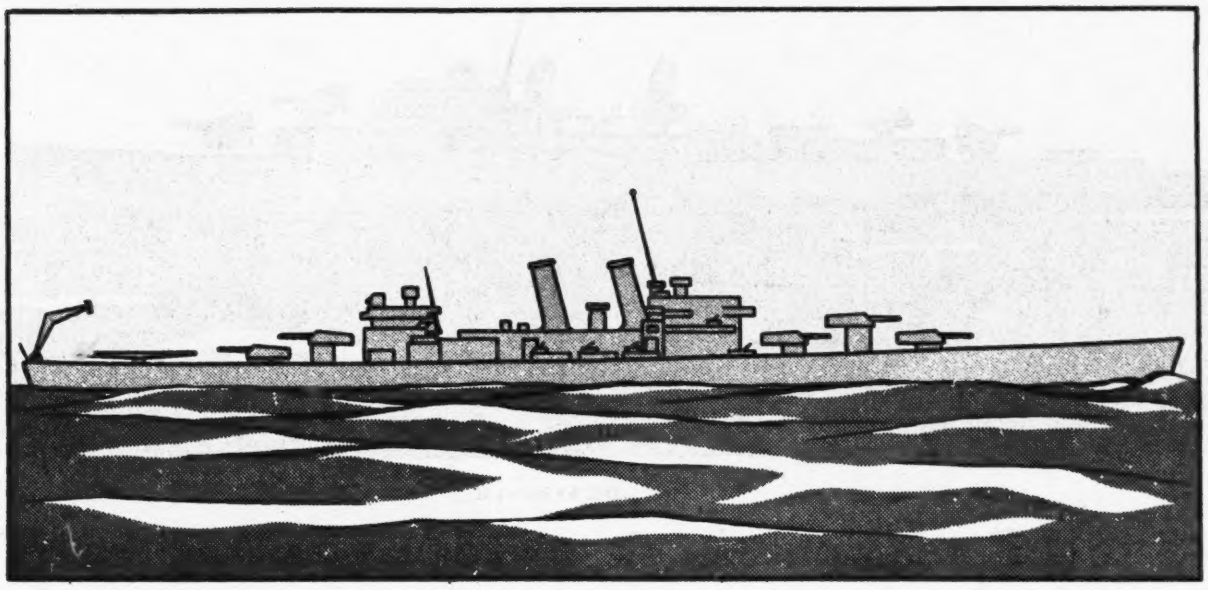
"It is forty-five feet wide. It is long and slim. Destroyers are the fastest ships in the Navy."

Bob went on, "The largest guns on this ship are five-inch guns. That means the inside of the gun barrel is five inches across."

In the picture, Pete could see the gun barrels sticking out of little houses. Bob explained, "These are called 'gun houses.'" There are five gun houses on this destroyer. There are small anti-aircraft guns all over the ship.

"All destroyers carry torpedoes. Torpedoes are fired from tubes. There are ten torpedo tubes on this ship.

"Destroyers need good sailors. Destroyers are long and slim. In rough weather they roll and pitch. Some men get seasick."



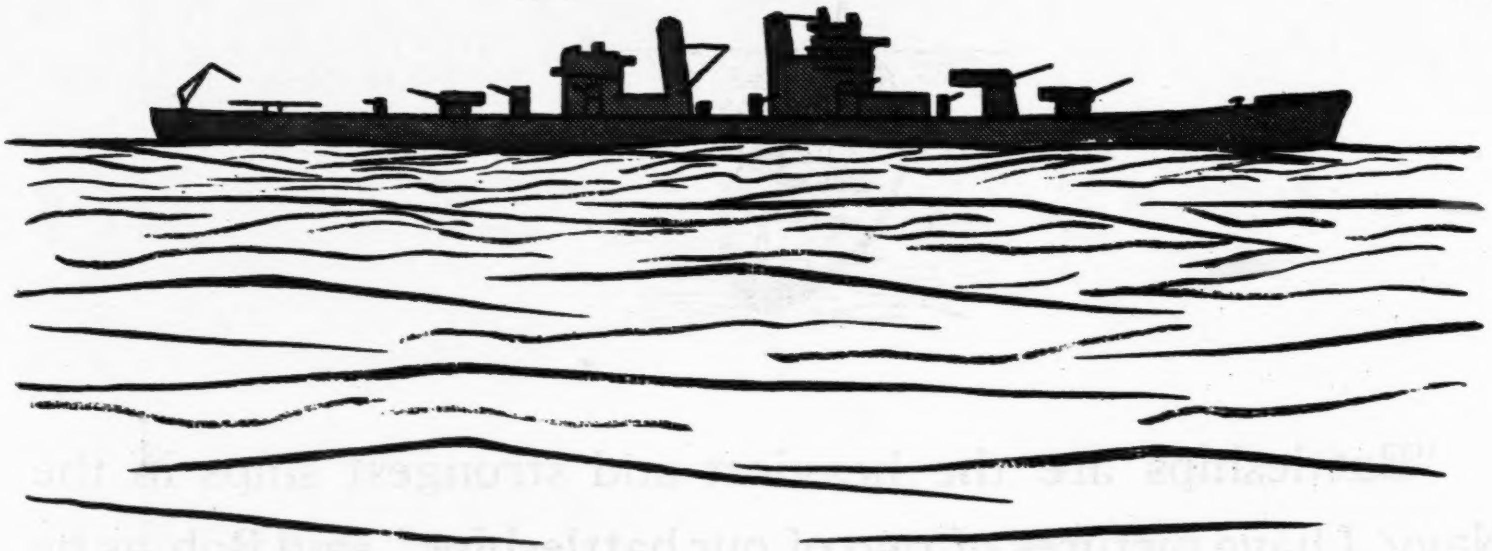
Phoenix — Cruiser — Light

Bob showed Pete another picture. "This is a light cruiser," he said. Bob told Pete about the light cruiser.

"This ship is six hundred feet long. It is sixty-five feet wide. It is long and slim, but not as slim as a destroyer. Only destroyers are faster than cruisers.

"The largest guns on this ship are six-inch guns. That means the inside of the gun barrel is six inches across. The guns on a destroyer are in gun houses. On cruisers and battleships, the big guns are in turrets. There are five turrets on the cruiser in this picture. There are three guns in each turret.

"This light cruiser carries four airplanes. These airplanes are the 'eyes' of the ship. They are small scout seaplanes. They scout far and wide, looking for other ships and airplanes. The news is sent to the cruiser by radio."



Baltimore — Cruiser — Heavy

Bob showed Pete a picture of another ship. "Here is a heavy cruiser."

"That looks like the picture of the light cruiser," Pete said.

Bob *explained that light cruisers and heavy cruisers* are much alike. They are about the same length and width. They go about the same speed. Both light cruisers and heavy cruisers carry scout planes.

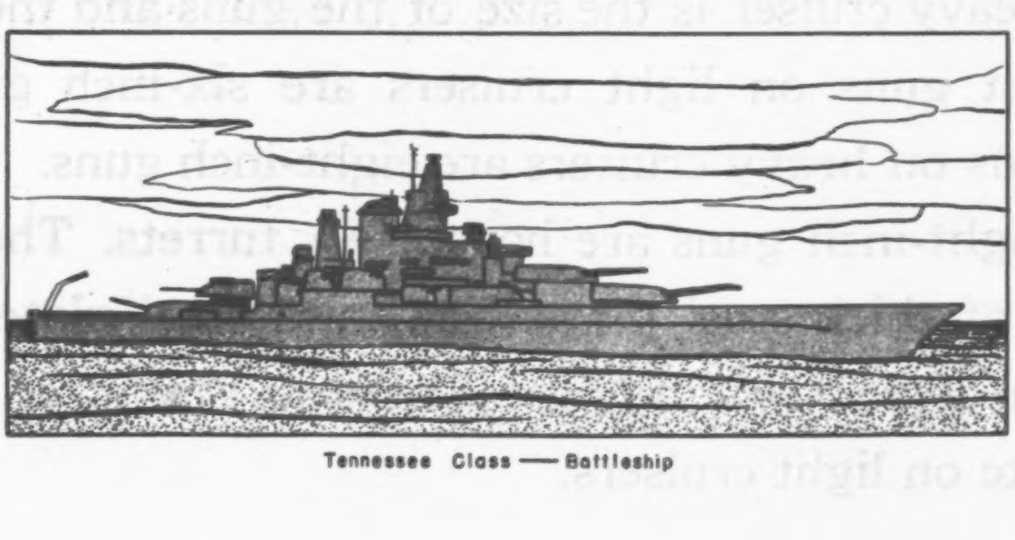
Bob went on, "The biggest difference between a light cruiser and a heavy cruiser is the size of the guns and the turrets. The largest guns on light cruisers are six-inch guns. The largest guns on heavy cruisers are eight-inch guns.

"The eight-inch guns are housed in turrets. The turrets are made of thick steel plate. The thick steel plate is called armor. The armor plate on heavy cruisers is thicker than the armor plate on light cruisers.

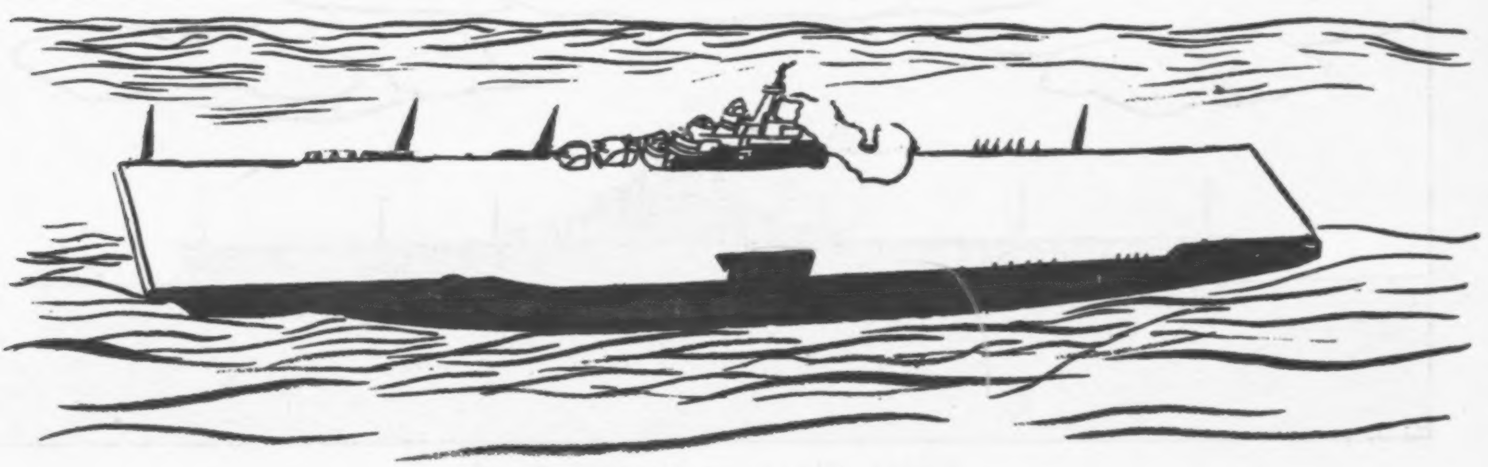
"Battleships are the heaviest and strongest ships in the Navy. I have pictures of two of our battleships," said Bob, as he showed the pictures to Pete.

"Most battleships have sixteen-inch guns. Some of these guns can shoot as far as twenty-five miles. The turrets are very heavy. Some gun turrets on battleships have armor plate sixteen inches thick. Each of the turrets on this battleship weighs as much as a whole destroyer.

"Battleships have much smaller guns. Each of these ships has sixteen five-inch guns. All over the battleships, there are lots of smaller anti-aircraft guns. Battleships are not slim. They must be wide to carry all of the heavy armor and guns.



Tennessee Class —— Battleship



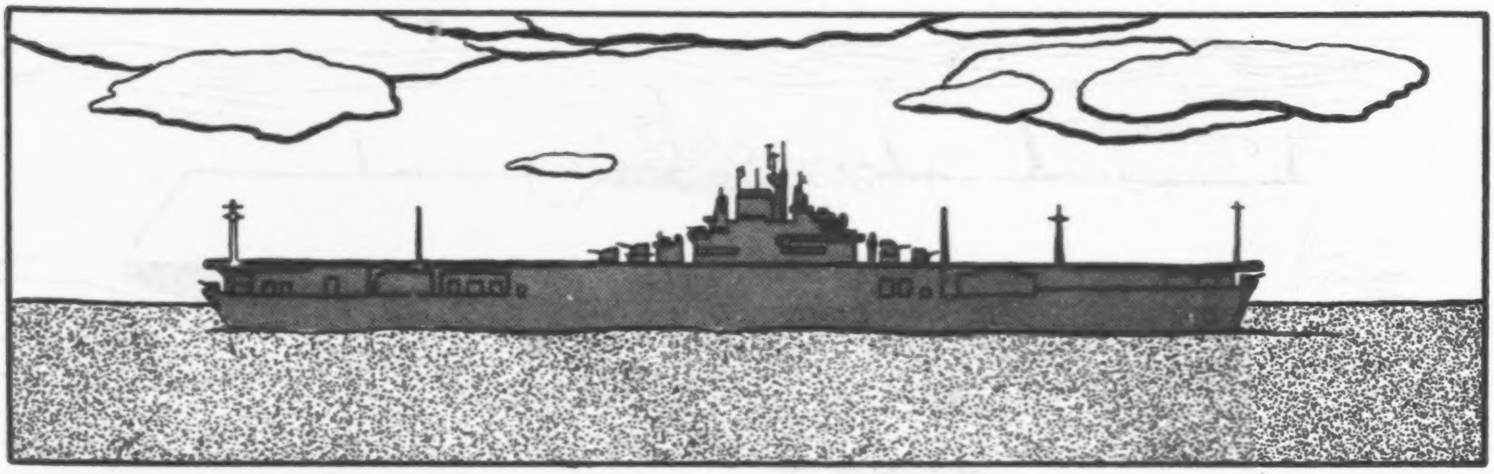
Essex Class —Aircraft Carrier

"Here is one of our large aircraft carriers," said Bob proudly. He handed the picture to Pete.

"The deck is long and flat. There are no guns in the way on the deck. It must be kept clear so that airplanes may take off and land on it. This deck is called the 'flight deck.' It is about nine hundred feet long. The flight deck is more than one hundred feet wide.

"The airplanes take off from the forward part of the flight deck. They land on the rear end of the flight deck. In the Navy, 'rear' is called 'aft.'

"Aircraft carriers have many small anti-aircraft guns. The largest guns on this aircraft carrier are five-inch guns."



Essex Class — Aircraft Carrier

Bob went on, "Aircraft carriers do not have room for big guns. A carrier fights with its airplanes. There are three types of airplanes on big carriers. These are fighters, dive bombers, and torpedo bombers. This ship can carry as many as one hundred airplanes. The airplanes are kept below the flight deck.

"Navy pilots must be experts. It is not easy to take off and land an airplane on the flight deck. Sometimes after long flights it is hard to find the aircraft carrier.

"Many well-trained men are needed to take care of the airplanes and the carrier. There are about two thousand men on a carrier when it goes to sea."

Pete said, "Two thousand men! That is almost as many people as there are in Rivertown!"

Bob told Pete that the Navy also had some small aircraft carriers. Only about thirty airplanes fly from a small carrier. He told about the other kinds of ships and small boats the Navy uses.

"Boy, you surely have learned a lot about ships since you joined the Navy," said Pete.

Bob smiled, "There is a lot that I do not know yet."

Pete looked at his watch. "It's twelve o'clock. We have been talking for two hours!"

Bob answered, "We had better hurry. The girls are to be here at one o'clock!"

Chapter 27

SIGHTSEEING IN WASHINGTON

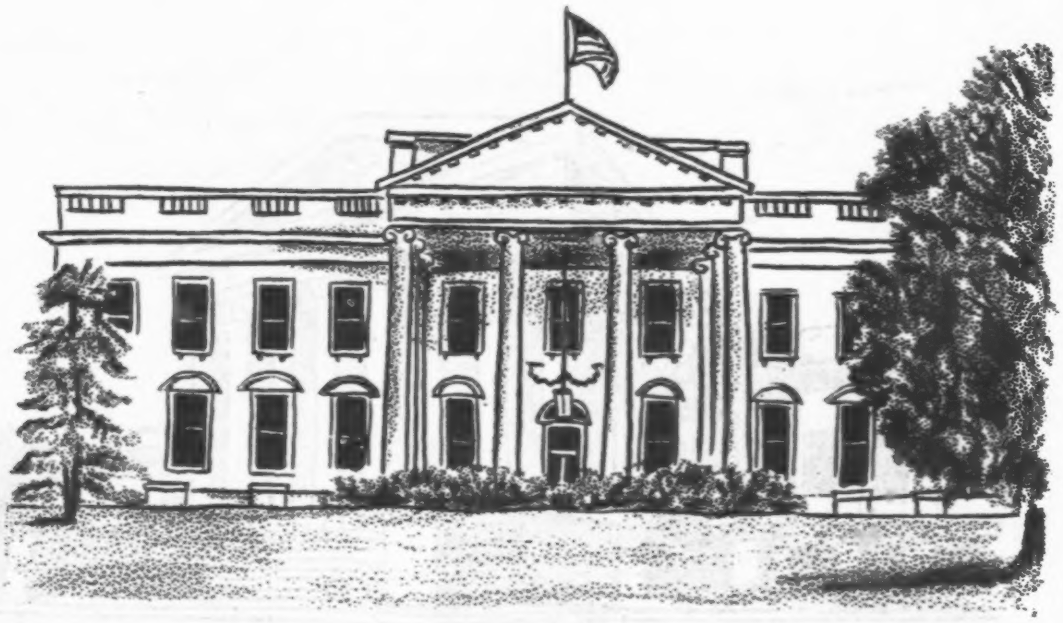
The buddies were ready when the girls arrived at the Hotel Senator. Sue had bought a new suit for her trip to Washington. She looked pretty. Bob thought that Mary looked even better than she had the night before.

All agreed that Mary should show them the sights. Mary had chosen a trip on a sightseeing bus.

The first stop on the sightseeing trip was at the Capitol. The young people were thrilled. This was the Capitol of the United States of America!

Pete said, "And this is where our government meets."

Bob added, "Yes. This is the heart of our democracy!"



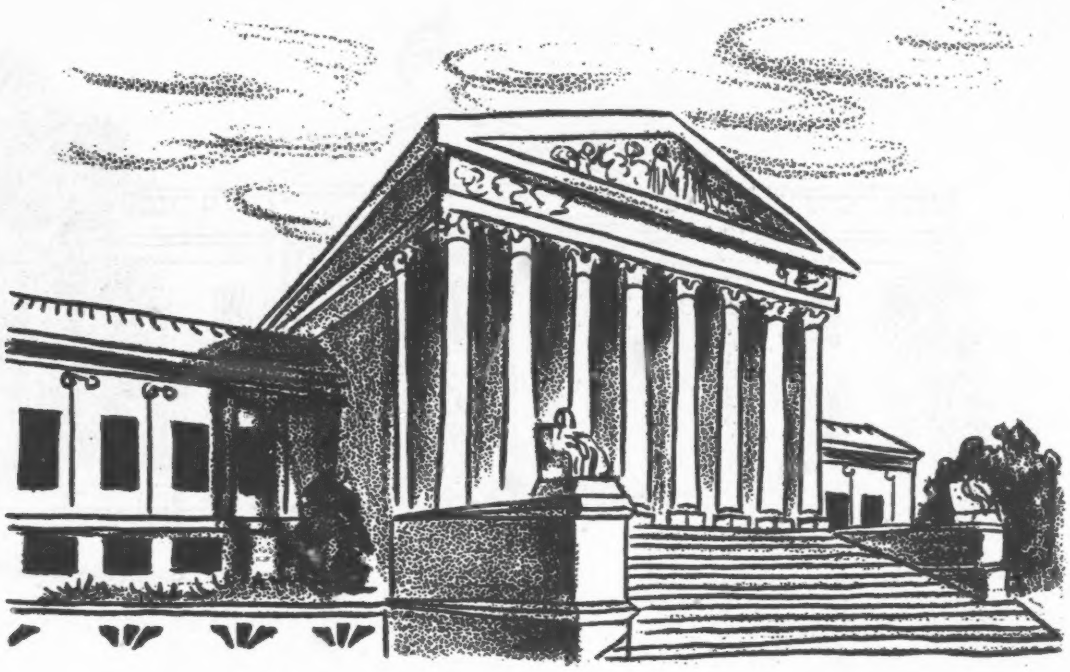
The next stop on the trip was at the White House. The two couples walked around the block. They looked at the White House from all sides. Sue thought it was a beautiful home. The others agreed.

They knew that the President of the United States lived in the White House. They knew it was his home when he was in Washington.

The guide told them the story of the White House. The building was finished in the year 1800. John Adams was the first President to live in it. The White House was burned during the War of 1812. It was rebuilt in 1818. The Presidents of the United States have lived there ever since.

Pete smiled at Sue, "I will never have a home that big."

Sue answered, "Well, the White House really belongs to all of us."

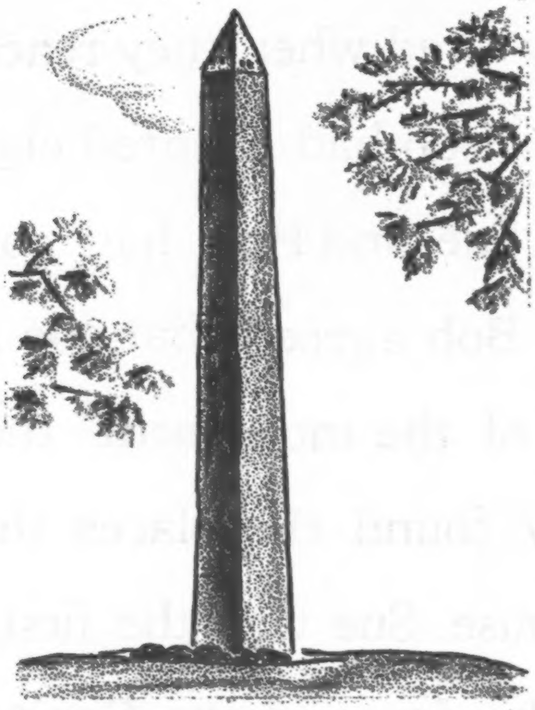


From the White House, the bus took the sightseers to the Supreme Court building.

The guide explained, "This is the home of the highest court in the United States. This court protects the rights of every American. This beautiful building is new. It was finished in 1936."

The sightseers walked into the beautiful building. The Court was not meeting. They saw the nine chairs for the nine judges of the Supreme Court.

Mary was not excited or impressed. She had seen the building many times. Sue, Pete, and Bob were impressed. They had learned about the Supreme Court in school. They knew that it was an important part of the Government of the United States. They were excited to be in the Supreme Court building.



Next the bus took them to the Washington Monument. The bus stopped near the monument.

"Gee, look how high it is!" said Pete. "How high is it?" he asked the guide.

"It is 555½ feet in height," the guide answered.

After thinking a minute, Bob said, "If that monument were laid down, it would be almost as long as a cruiser!"

The guide told them more about the monument. He said, "The monument was built by the American people in honor of George Washington. He was our first President. The monument was finished in the year 1885. Many people walk to the top. There are 898 steps."

"Let's walk to the top!" said Pete.

The girls and Bob agreed.

They were very tired when they reached the top. They had counted the steps. Bob had counted eight hundred and ninety-six steps. Mary, Sue, and Pete had counted eight hundred and ninety-eight. Bob agreed that the guide was right.

From the top of the monument, they could see all over Washington. They found the places they had visited. They saw the White House. Sue was the first to find the Supreme Court building. The dome of the Capitol was shining in the sun.

Mary showed her friends the Lincoln Memorial. It was across the water from the monument.

They went down in the elevator. On the way down, Mary said, "Mother wants all of us to come home for dinner. She said that you men should have a home-cooked meal."

"That's good news," said Bob and Pete together.

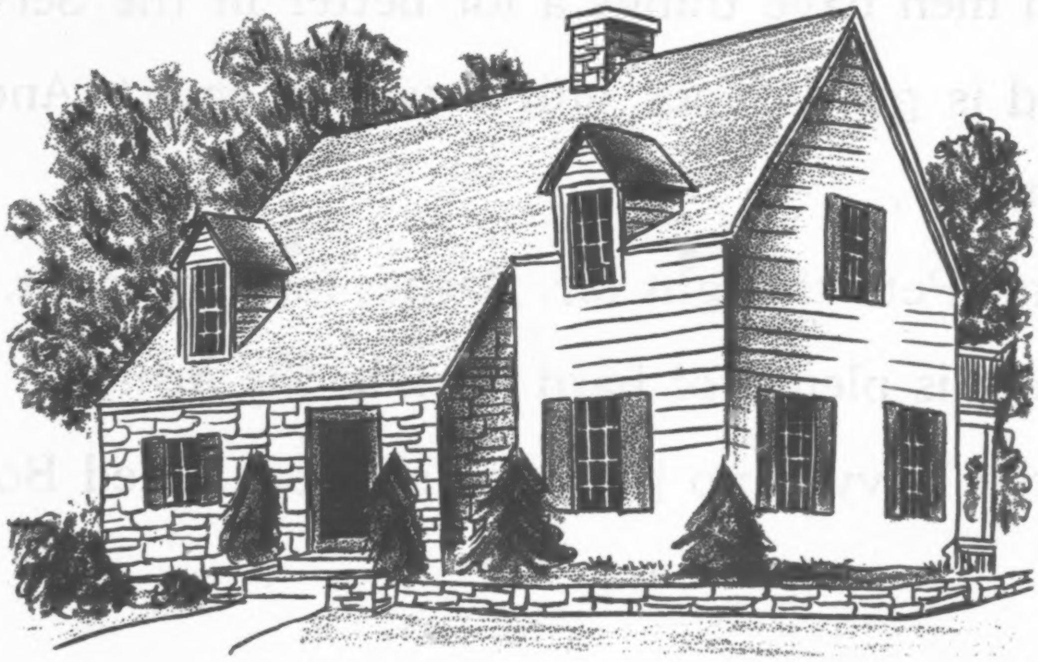
Chapter 28

A HOME-COOKED DINNER

Mary's last name is Barnes. She lives in Washington with her mother and father. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes and Mary live in a nice house. Mary has one sister. Her sister is married and has a home of her own. Mary has one brother who is in the Coast Guard.

It took thirty minutes to go by bus from the Washington Monument to Mary's home. Mary's father was already home from work. Mrs. Barnes had dinner ready. She and Mr. Barnes were sitting in the living room. They were waiting for Mary and her friends.

Bob and Pete met Mr. and Mrs. Barnes. Mrs. Barnes said to the buddies, "I am glad you could come. I thought you would enjoy a home-cooked dinner."



Sue and Mary went to the kitchen to help Mrs. Barnes. Bob and Pete sat in the living room talking with Mr. Barnes.

Mr. Barnes said, "Sue told me that you two were friends in Rivertown."

"Yes. I have known Pete and Sue since we were little kids," answered Bob.

Pete added, "We all went to school together."

Mr. Barnes told Pete and Bob that he had been in the Army. He had joined the Army in 1917. He had gone to France in 1918. Mr. Barnes told them that he had stayed in France for one year. After getting out of the Army, he had come to Washington to live.

Mr. Barnes said, "The Army was pretty rough in those days. You men have things a lot better in the Service now. Your food is good. Your uniforms look smart. And you are well trained."

Bob and Pete thought Mr. Barnes must be right. But Pete said, "There is plenty of hard work in the Army."

"And the Navy is no place for sissies," added Bob.

Sue and Mary had helped Mrs. Barnes prepare the dinner that morning. Sue had made a chocolate cake. Pete liked chocolate cake best. Sue liked to cook. At home she cooked many of the meals. Pete was proud of Sue's cooking.

Mary had prepared a meat loaf. She used ground beef and ground pork. She added onion, salt, pepper, bread crumbs, and milk. Mary was not a very good cook. She did not cook often. Her mother had taught Mary how to make the meat loaf.

Now the dinner was ready to be put on the table. Mary had set the table. Sue had mashed the potatoes while Mrs. Barnes made gravy. When the food was on the table, Mrs. Barnes called the men.

The young people were very hungry. Mr. Barnes said to Bob and Pete, "Come on, men. Let's see if this dinner is as good as Army and Navy chow."

The dining table, filled with food, made Pete think of home. Bob was impressed by the fine, white tablecloth.

Mr. Barnes sat at one end of the table. Mrs. Barnes sat at the other. On one side of the table, sat Bob and Sue. Mary and Pete faced them.

"We can't let Pete and Sue sit together," laughed Mrs. Barnes. "We want them to eat a good meal."

Mr. Barnes cut the meat loaf. He served each plate with food. After the plates were passed, Mrs. Barnes poured coffee.

Bob eyed his plate with a hungry look. On it were meat loaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, beets, and creamed onions. On a small plate, was a spring salad. It was made of lettuce, tomato, onion, green pepper, and salad dressing.

Sue passed the bread plate. "These are hot biscuits," she said. "Mrs. Barnes made them."

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Bob and Pete had never had thin biscuits. They each ate ten of them. Mrs. Barnes had baked a lot of biscuits. She knew the young people would be hungry.

"You made a very good meat loaf, Mrs. Barnes," said Bob.

Mrs. Barnes smiled, "I did not make it. Mary made the meat loaf."

Bob looked at Mary. "I thought you said you could not cook!"

Mary laughed and said, "Meat loaf is the only thing I can cook."

Sue's chocolate cake was a fine ending to a good meal.

After dinner they all played cards. Later, Mr. and Mrs. Barnes left the young people. Bob and Pete thanked them for the dinner. It had been a perfect dinner, they told Mrs. Barnes.

Pete, Bob, and the girls talked for a while. They planned a trip to George Washington's home for the next day. Washington's home is at Mount Vernon. Later, Bob and Pete left for their hotel. It had been a busy day, and they were very tired.

Chapter 29

A TRIP TO MOUNT VERNON

Pete awoke early the next morning. He was glad they had planned to spend the day at Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon was the home of George Washington. Pete had read about it when he was in school. George Washington was Pete's greatest hero. He had always wanted to see Mount Vernon.

"Get up, Bob," yelled Pete, as he shook Bob's shoulder. "It is eight o'clock. We must get ready for our trip."

"What trip?" asked Bob, sleepily.

"We are going on a boat trip to Mount Vernon with the girls. Don't you remember?" answered Pete.

Bob got out of bed. The men bathed and dressed.

As they dressed, Pete said, "That was a swell meal last night, wasn't it?"

Bob answered, "Yes, it was. And I liked Mary's family, too."

The buddies had agreed to meet Mary and Sue at the boat pier. Bob and Pete did not know how to get to the pier. They asked the way. People were very helpful in telling them how to go.

Bob and Pete were to meet the girls at half past nine. The boat was to leave at ten o'clock.

"We are on time," said Pete, as they got off the bus.

"Where are the girls?" asked Bob, looking across the pier.

The girls had not arrived. The buddies bought tickets for the boat ride. While they waited for the girls, Pete and Bob looked at the many boats in the river.

"What is the name of this river?" asked Bob.

Pete answered, "This is the Potomac River. Mount Vernon is on the Potomac River."

Bob said, "Now I remember. George Washington threw a silver dollar across this river. Anyhow, that is what our reading book said."

"No, it was the Rappahannock River," said Pete.

"Yes, I remember now," answered Bob.

At five minutes before ten o'clock, the buddies were very worried. Where were the girls? The boat would leave in five more minutes. Three more minutes passed. The boat whistle blew.

"There they are!" said Bob, as the girls got out of a taxicab.

"Hurry, girls, or we will miss the boat," called Pete.

The two couples went aboard the boat at the last minute. The girls had missed a bus.

"We were so afraid we had spoiled the day. We just made it!" said Sue, as the boat pulled away from the pier.

The couples enjoyed the trip down the river. Mary had made the trip before. Sue and Pete had never seen such a wide river. This was the only large boat they had ever been aboard. Bob enjoyed telling them all about the destroyer he had visited.

The boat arrived at Mount Vernon in time for lunch. After a hurried lunch, the two couples walked up the hill to the main house.

"Was George Washington born here?" asked Bob.

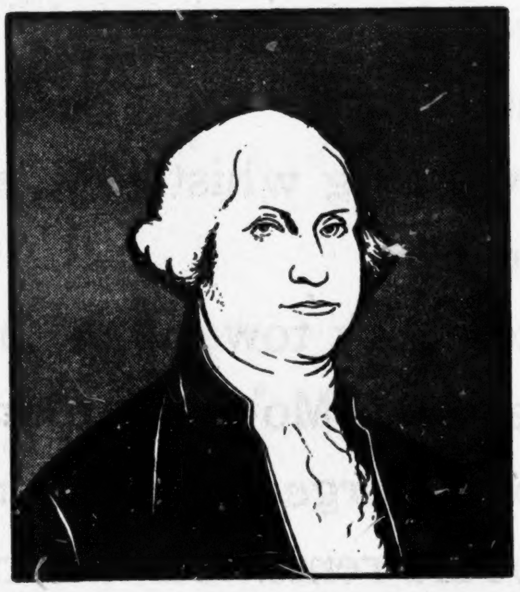
"No," said Mary. "He was born at Wakefield, in Virginia. He came here to live in the latter part of his life."

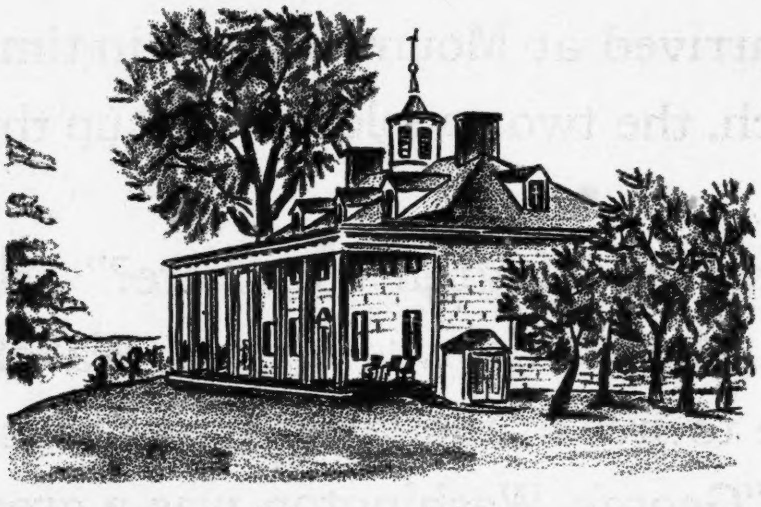
Sue said, "George Washington was a great general of the Army and the father of our country."

Bob added. "He was the first President of the United States."

"I have read a lot about Washington," said Pete. "While he lived in this house, he was a great farmer. He learned new things about caring for the soil. He learned how to improve seed. He studied how to improve farm stock and work animals."

Bob said, "George Washington did a great deal for our country. He was a great American."





Sue was surprised that Mount Vernon was not larger. However, she thought the building was beautiful. They went through the house and saw the old furniture. Some of the furniture had been used by George Washington.

Bob said, "I think I like my Navy sack better than those high beds."

Sue asked, "Where is the kitchen in this house?"

Mary answered, "In George Washington's time, the food was not cooked in the house. I'll show you the old kitchen house."

The buddies and their girls saw the kitchen house, the laundry, the smoke house where meat was cured, the slave quarters, and the gardens.

The boat blew a warning whistle. "We must be aboard in fifteen minutes," said Bob.

The friends started back toward the boat.

"I am glad we came to Mount Vernon," said Sue. "I learned so much about how George Washington lived."

All agreed they would remember the trip for a long, long time.

Chapter 30

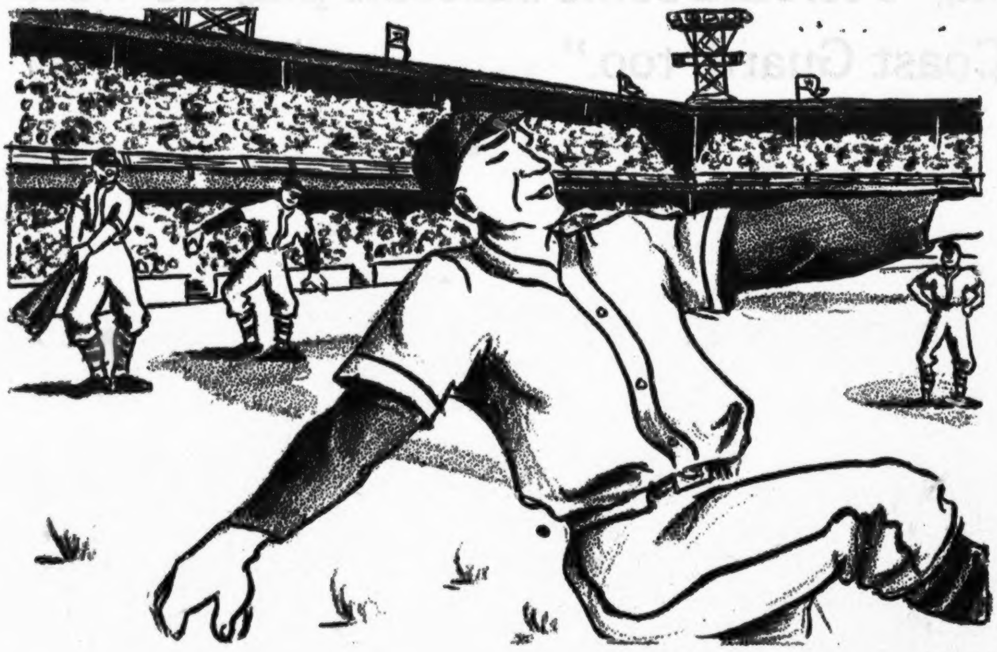
THE BUDDIES SEE A BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME

The soldier, the sailor, and the girls were having a good time. The days were passing rapidly. They had seen two shows. They had been to Robert E. Lee's home and the Smithsonian Institute.

Pete and Bob had never seen a big league baseball game. They wanted to see the Washington Senators play the New York Yankees. They asked Sue and Mary to go to the baseball game with them. The girls decided not to go to the ball game.

Sue said, "I want to go shopping while I am in Washington. You men go to the game, and Mary and I will go shopping."

Pete and Bob arrived at the ball park one hour before game time. They were lucky. Their seats were right behind third base.



They arrived at the ball park early enough to see the batting and fielding practice. Bob and Pete pointed out to each other the players they had read about. Joe DiMaggio, center fielder for the Yankees, had always been Bob's favorite ball player. Bob waited for Joe to bat in practice.

"Look at DiMaggio hit that ball!" Bob said. The crowd roared as DiMaggio bounced a ball off the left field fence.

Pete added, "He takes a powerful swing at that ball." Joe hit two more balls to the outfield and then hit one over the fence.

Then Keller took his turn in batting practice. Pete said, "Keller was in the Service. Now he is back in baseball and hitting well again."

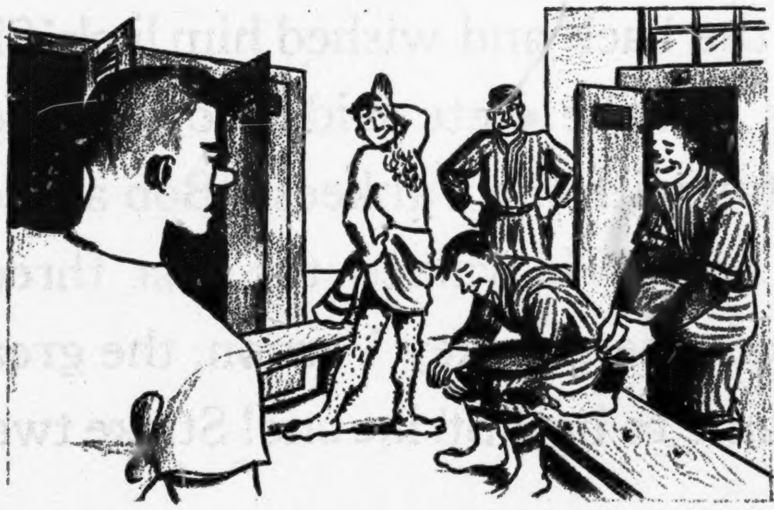
Bob added, "DiMaggio was in the Service, too. Many of the big league baseball players were in the Army and the Navy."

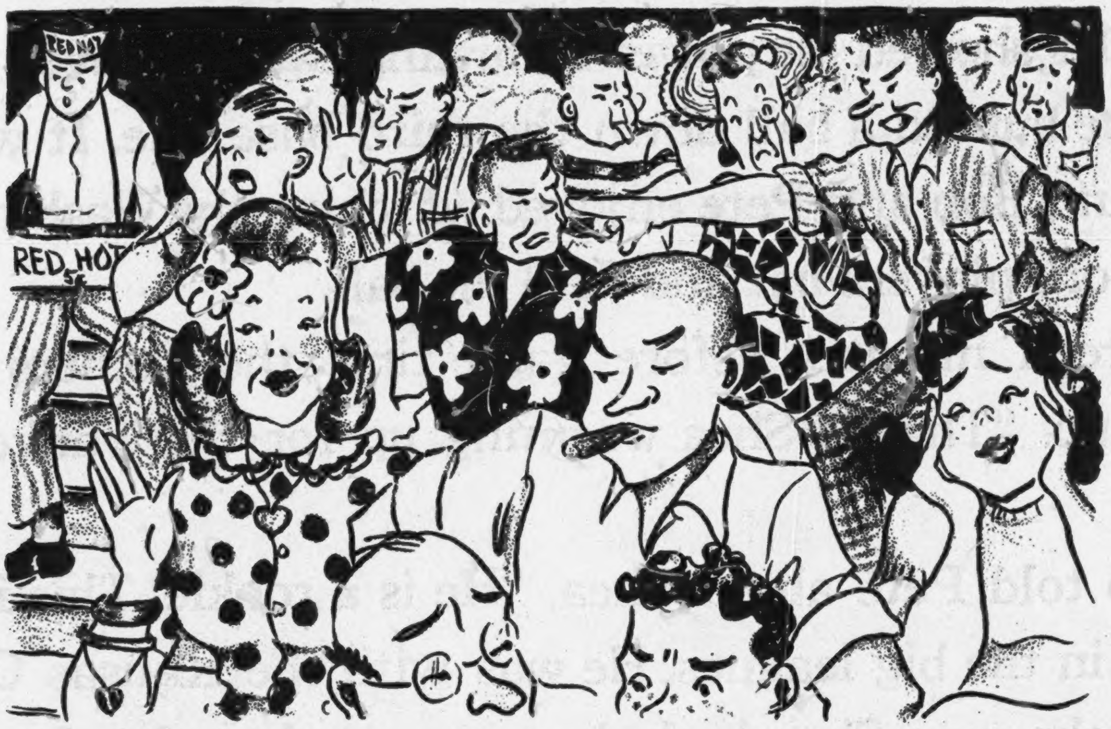
Pete said, "Yes. And some baseball players were in the Air Force and Coast Guard, too."

Keller showed his power by hitting two balls over the fence. Then he bunted a ball down the third base line. It was a perfect bunt. Bob and Pete enjoyed watching the Washington and New York players bat and field the ball.

Fifteen minutes before game time, the pitchers began to warm up. "That is Shea warming up for the Yankees," said Bob.

Bob told Pete about Shea. "He is a rookie. This is his first season in the big leagues. He was with the Kansas City Blues before the war. Shea had always wanted to play for the Yankees. He was in the Army. He was burned badly in the Normandy invasion. They thought Shea would never play baseball again. But Shea did get well. He tried hard and won a chance in big league baseball. He wants to make good and stay with the Yankees. He has won a game and lost a game for the Yankees so far this season. If Shea loses many games, he may be sent back to Kansas City."





Washington took the field and the game started. The veteran pitcher, Buck Newsom, was on the mound for Washington. The first two Yankee batters hit easy grounders to the infield. Two out and DiMaggio at bat! Newsom was pitching well. Bob and Pete had never seen a baseball thrown so fast. DiMaggio took three mighty swings and struck out.

The rookie, Shea, took the mound for New York. DiMaggio patted Shea on the back and wished him luck. Shea pitched his first ball. It was a strike. Pete said, "Boy, I hope Shea can win this game and stay with the Yankees." Bob agreed.

Shea started badly. He walked the first three batters. The bases were loaded when Mickey Vernon, the great Washington first baseman, came to bat! Strike one! Strike two! Strike three! Vernon was out.

The bases were still loaded, but Shea struck out the next man, too.

Two out! The next Washington batter hit the first ball. It was a powerful blow. The ball headed for the fence between left and center field. The men on base were running. DiMaggio was after the ball. Could he reach it? At the last minute, DiMaggio leaped into the air. He grabbed the ball with one hand. It was a wonderful catch. The side was out!

Both Newsom and Shea pitched well, inning after inning. The fielders gave them good support. The playing thrilled Bob and Pete. Now they knew what big league baseball was like!

The Yankees came to bat in the ninth inning. The score was nothing to nothing (0 - 0). Newsom pitched as fast as ever. He struck out the first Yankee batter. Now Keller was at bat with one man out. Ball one! Strike one! Strike two! Would Keller strike out, too?

Keller took a terrific swing and hit the next ball. It was a long line drive toward the right field fence. The right fielder backed up toward the fence. He put up his gloved hand. It was no use. The ball sailed out of the park. Keller had hit a home run! Pete and Bob cheered. The Washington fans groaned. They were very unhappy.

DiMaggio came to bat next. Before the crowd had quieted down, DiMaggio had hit a home run! The Yankees led, two to nothing, as Washington came to bat.

Shea had allowed only three hits in the first eight innings. Would the Washington team score? Could Shea pitch a shutout? Bob and Pete were happy when Shea put out the batters in one, two, three order. The Yankees had won and Shea had pitched a shutout!

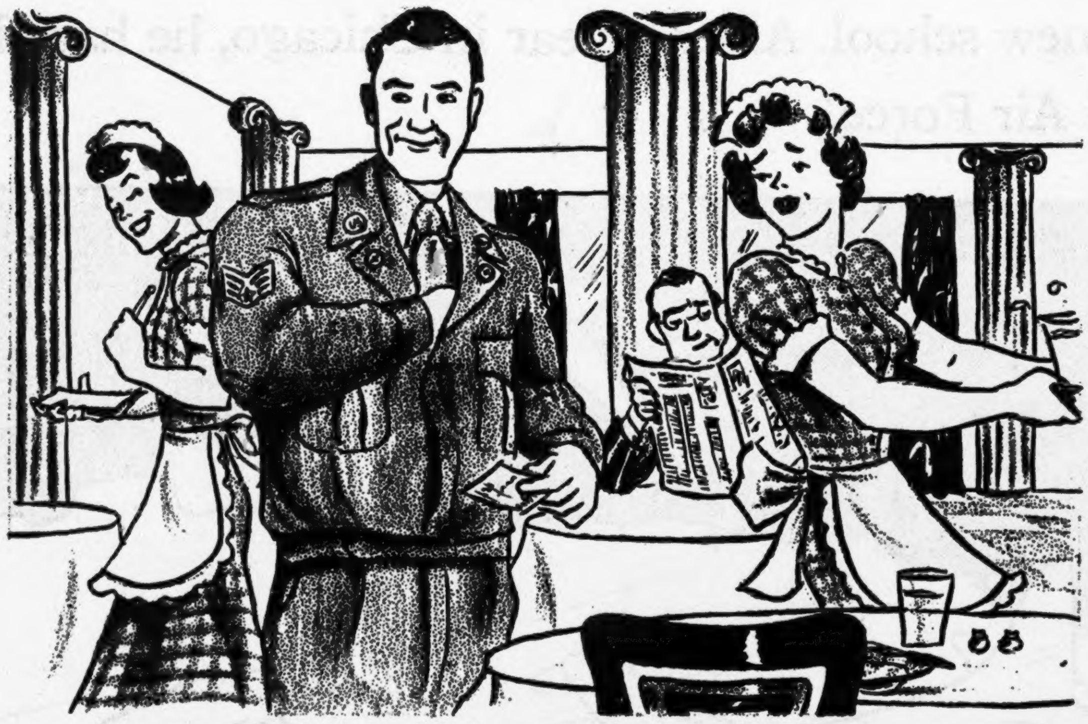
Chapter 31

JOE STONE OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

On Friday morning the buddies were having a late breakfast. Tomorrow the Washington trip would be over. They sat talking and making plans for the day.

"Doesn't that sergeant over there look familiar?" asked Bob, pointing to a nearby table.

Pete turned and looked at a tall, good-looking fellow in an Air Force uniform. "Why, yes. He looks something like Joe Stone."



"Do you suppose Joe Stone could be in the Air Force now?" asked Bob.

Pete answered, "I have not heard about him since he left Rivertown. We were still in high school then."

Just then the tall Air Force sergeant walked toward them. "Aren't you men from Rivertown?" he asked.

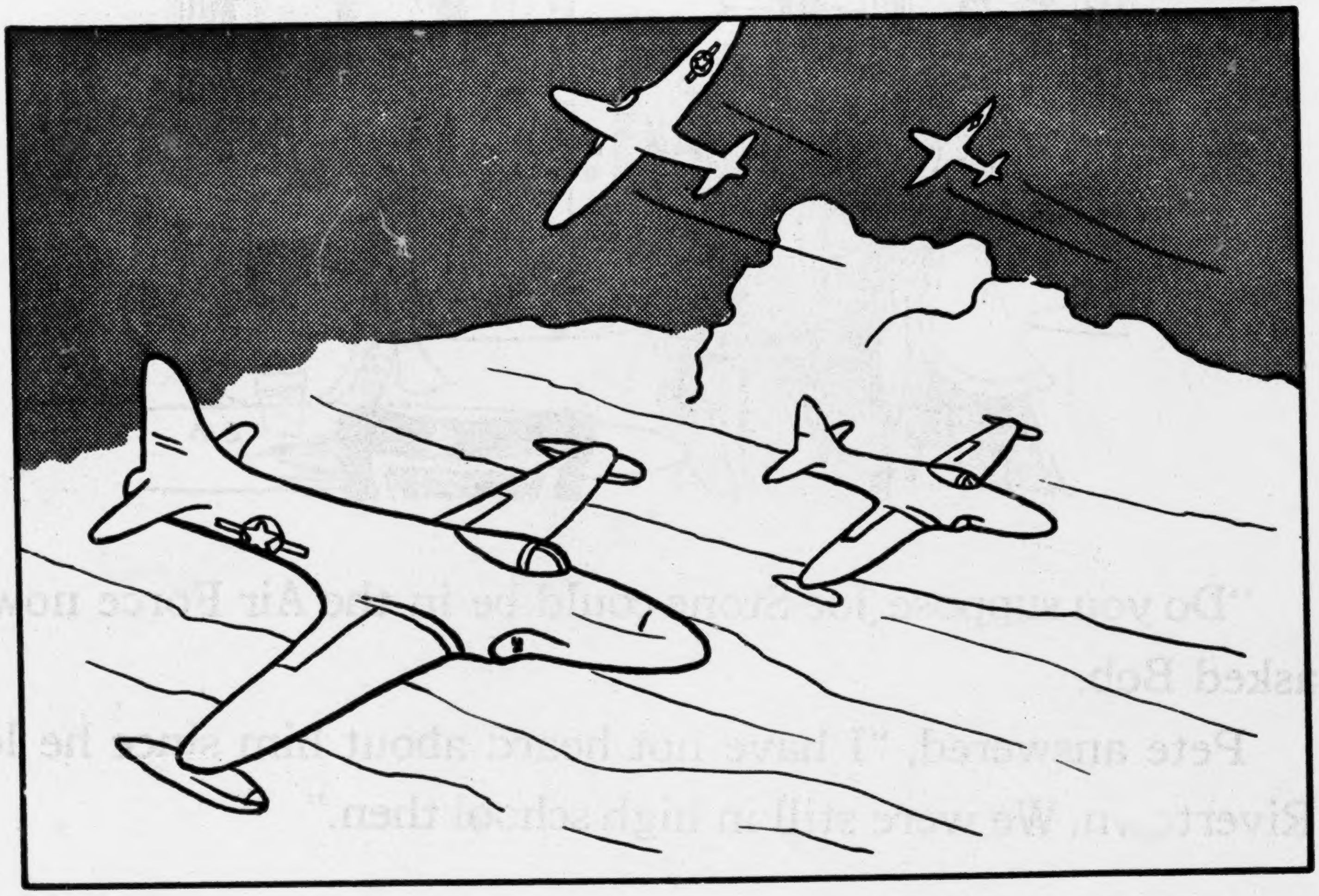
"Yes. And you are Joe Stone, aren't you?" asked Pete.

"I am glad to see you, Pete. And you, too, Bob," said Joe, shaking hands with them.

Joe sat and talked with Bob and Pete while they finished their breakfast.

"Where have you been, Joe, since you left Rivertown?" asked Pete.

Joe told his old friends that his family had moved from Rivertown to Chicago. He had missed Rivertown and did not like his new school. After a year in Chicago, he had decided to join the Air Force.

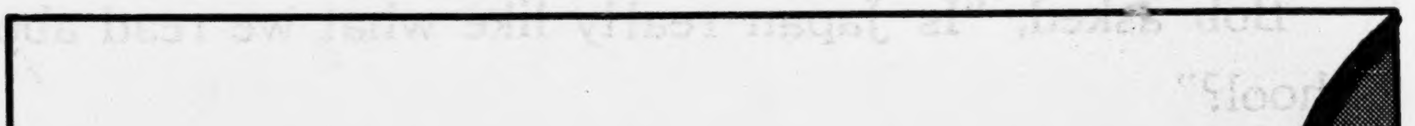


When Bob and Pete finished breakfast, Joe went with them to their hotel room. The buddies asked Joe many questions about the Air Force.

Joe told them that he had been in the Service for three years. He was now stationed at Langley Air Force Base, not far from Washington by airplane.

"Did you get out of the United States before the war was over?" asked Bob.

"Yes!" said Joe. "I was sent to Kelly Air Force Base in Texas for my basic training. And that training was really rough! The first three or four weeks were so tough that I didn't think I could make it. Our officers told us that we had to be tough to stay in the Air Force."



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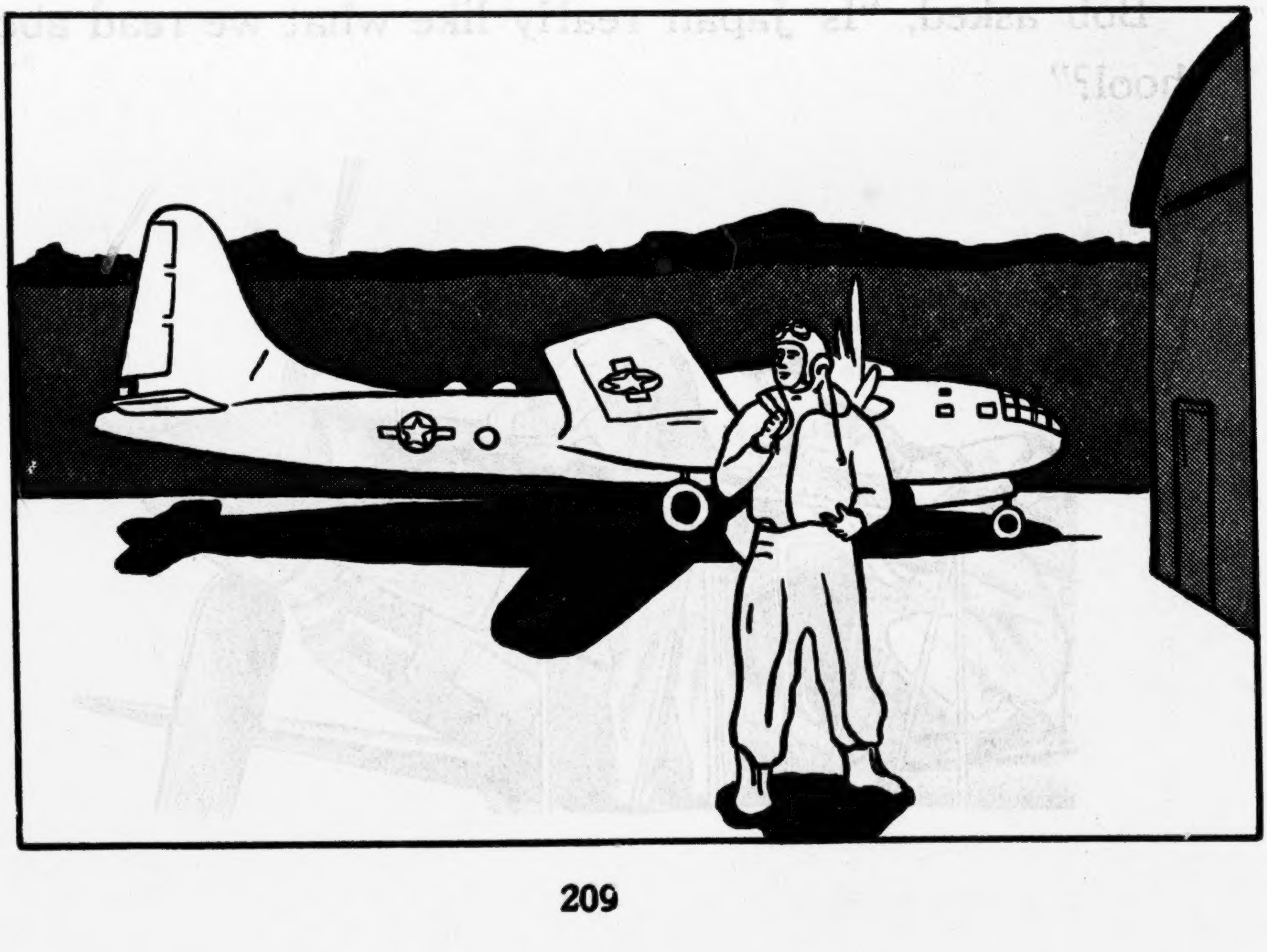
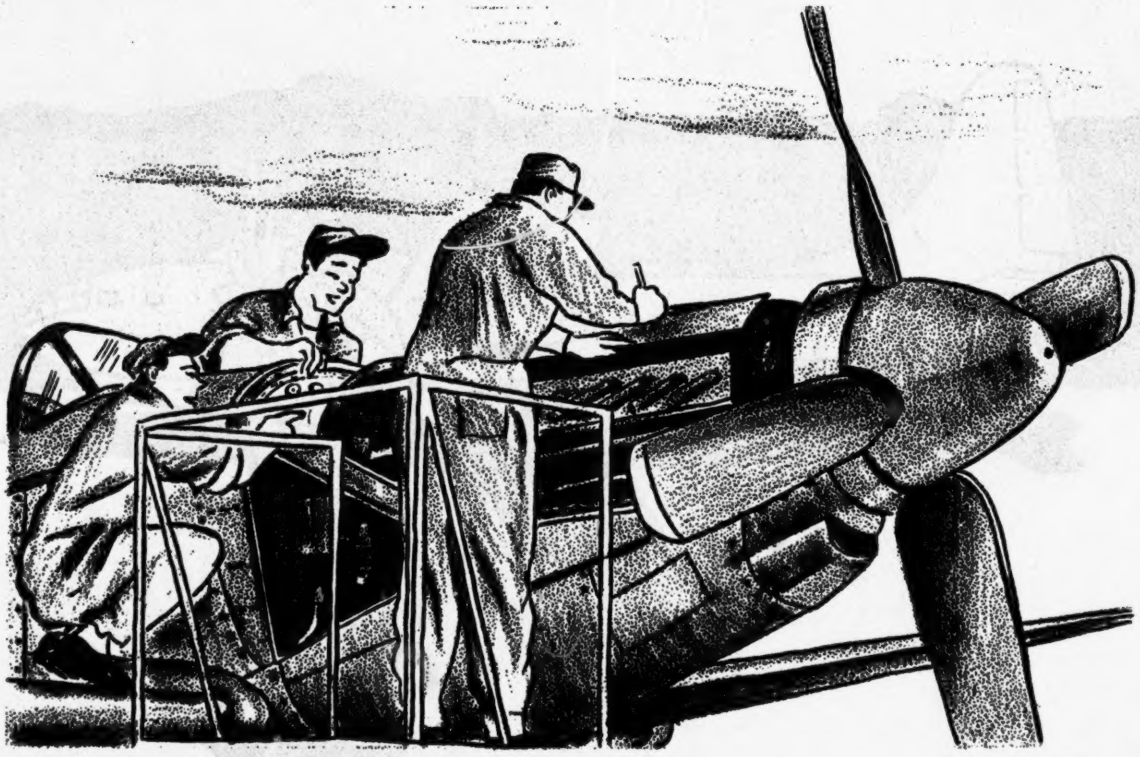


Joe smiled, "I decided that if the other fellows could do it, I could, too. After a lot of work, I was in good condition and began to enjoy the training.

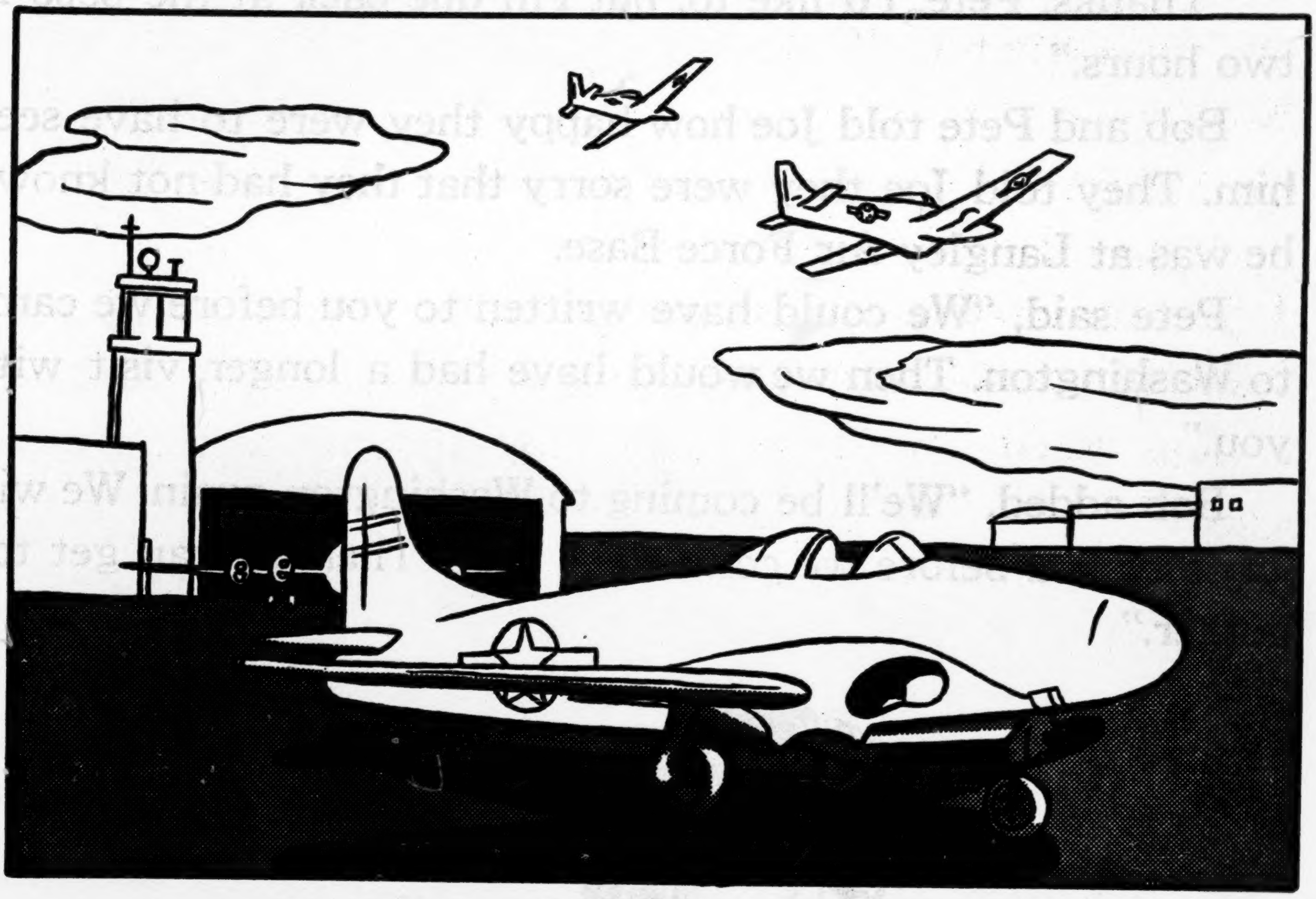
"From Kelly Air Force Base I went to March Air Force Base, in southern California. There we were given further training. That was my first visit to California. I liked it very much. I went to Los Angeles several times. Some of us made one short trip into Mexico. After training at March Air Force Base, my outfit shipped out for action in the Pacific. We had gone as far as Hawaii when the war ended."

"From Hawaii we were sent to Japan. We saw a lot of Japan. We were on duty in several cities. I liked Tokyo best. There was some war damage, but the parks were beautiful."

Bob asked, "Is Japan really like what we read about in school?"



Joe answered, "Not much! The large cities are a lot like ours. They have paved streets, streetcars, and large stone buildings. The city people dress much as the people in the United States do. We saw a great deal of Japan from the air. The farms are smaller than the farms in the United States."



Bob asked, "Joe, how do you like your duty in the Air Force? You have been in for three years, now."

"It is a good outfit. I am going to stay in. I don't want to seem soft about it, but I am really proud of being an Air Force sergeant," Joe answered.

The tall sergeant stood up to leave. Pete said, "Joe, can you have lunch with us and do something this afternoon?"

"Thanks, Pete. I'd like to, but I'm due back at the base in two hours."

Bob and Pete told Joe how happy they were to have seen him. They told Joe they were sorry that they had not known he was at Langley Air Force Base.

Pete said, "We could have written to you before we came to Washington. Then we would have had a longer visit with you."

Bob added, "We'll be coming to Washington again. We will write to you before we come next time. Then we can get together."

Chapter 32

THE LAST NIGHT OF THE WASHINGTON TRIP

After Joe left, the buddies went out for lunch. As they ate they talked about Joe. He was two years older than Pete and Bob. Joe had been ahead of them in school, but they had known him well. They agreed that the Air Force had made a man of Joe.

Pete said, "Did you see the shine on Joe's shoes?"

Bob answered, "Yes. I've seen a lot of men of the Air Force. I have never seen one yet who did not have his shoes shined."

"Air Force men always look sharp," Pete added. "They must be proud of their outfit."

"What do you want to do this afternoon?" Pete asked Bob. "The girls are going to be busy."

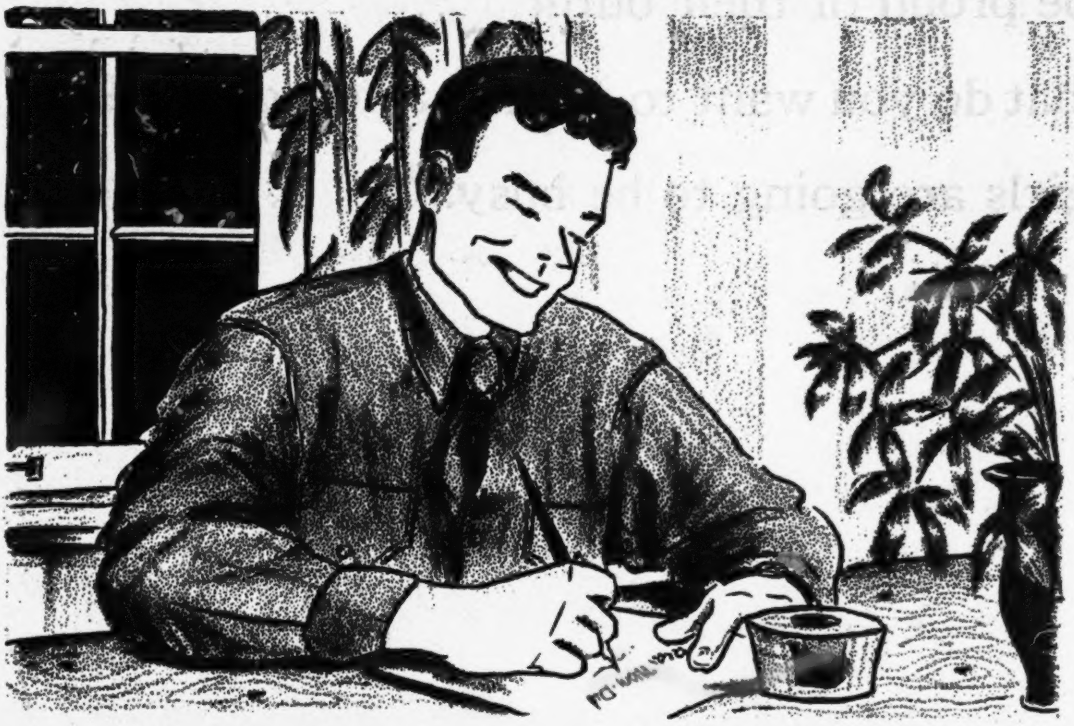
"I am tired and sleepy. I think I'll get some sack time," Bob answered.

"That suits me. My money is running low. I'd better not spend any more," Pete said.

The buddies went back to their hotel room and were soon fast asleep.

Pete awoke first. He had been dreaming about Mom and Dad. He lay on his bed and thought about them. Mom and Dad had been kind about this Washington trip. They had wanted him to come home. But they knew he would have a good time in Washington. They had even sent him money.

Pete had sent post cards to his mother and father. But he had not written them a letter since he had been in Washington. Now was a good time to write his parents.



Friday

Dear Mom and Dad,

I hope you have received the post cards I sent to you. We are having a fine time.

Mary Barnes is a grand girl. Bob likes her very much. I think Mary and Bob will be going together. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes are grand people. You would like them, I am sure.

On Tuesday night Mary invited us all to dinner at her home. It was a grand dinner. It reminded me of some of the dinners you cook, Mom. Sue helped cook the dinner. I like Sue more all the time.

Mary has helped us to see Washington. We have seen the White House and the Capitol of the United States. We saw the Supreme Court building and climbed to the top of the Washington Monument. We went to Washington's home at Mount Vernon.

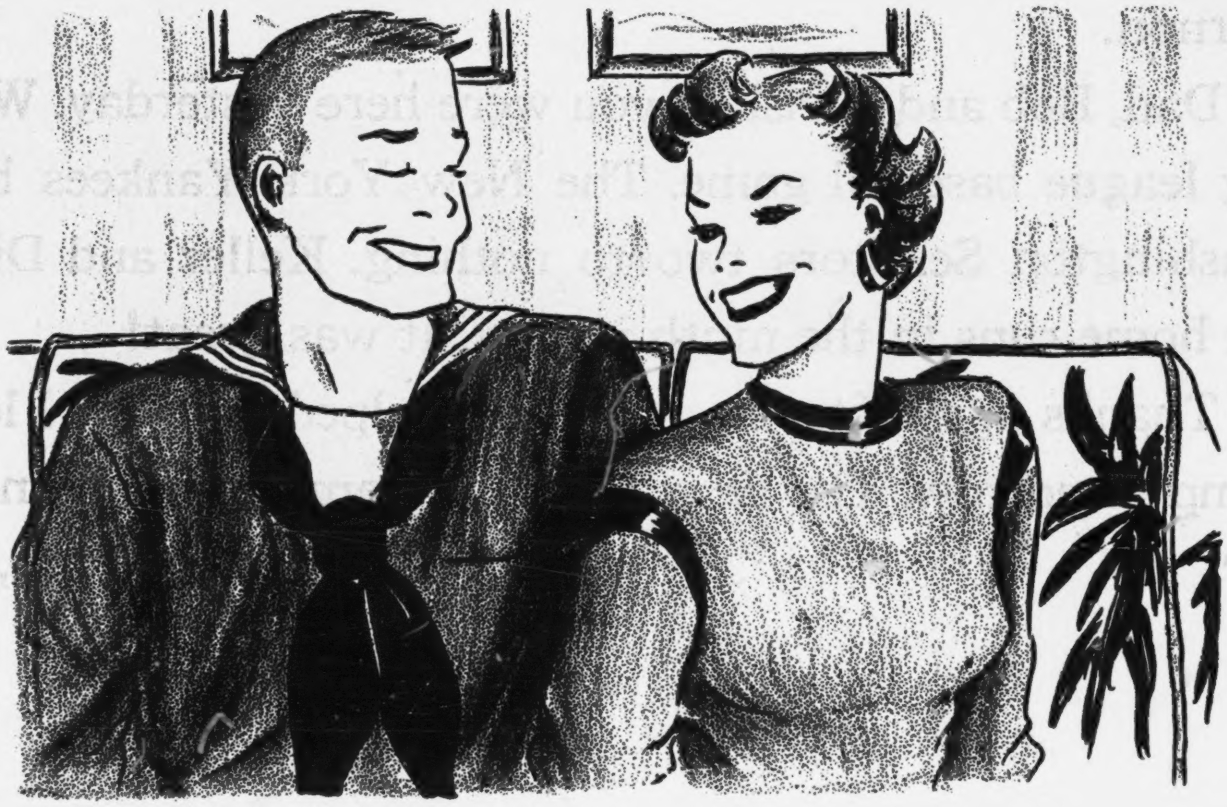
Dad, Bob and I wished you were here yesterday. We saw a big league baseball game. The New York Yankees beat the Washington Senators two to nothing. Keller and DiMaggio hit home runs in the ninth inning. It was great!

Thanks again for the money. It helped out a lot. I leave for camp tomorrow. The next furlough I am coming home.

Love to you both,
Pete

After dinner Pete and Bob went out to Mary's home. They wanted to spend their last evening quietly, with the girls. Also, they did not have enough money left to have a costly evening. The girls had already agreed that they would like to spend the evening at home. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes had gone out to visit friends when Bob and Pete arrived. Pete took Sue and went out to the porch. Bob and Mary sat in the living room and talked.

Bob had grown to know Mary rather well during the week. He liked her better than any other girl he had ever met. Was this just a week of fun? Or, was Mary serious about Bob? He wanted to find out before he went back to duty.



Mary and Bob talked for a long time. Bob had his questions answered. He found out that Mary did want to see him again. They made plans for Bob to come to Washington on a weekend pass.

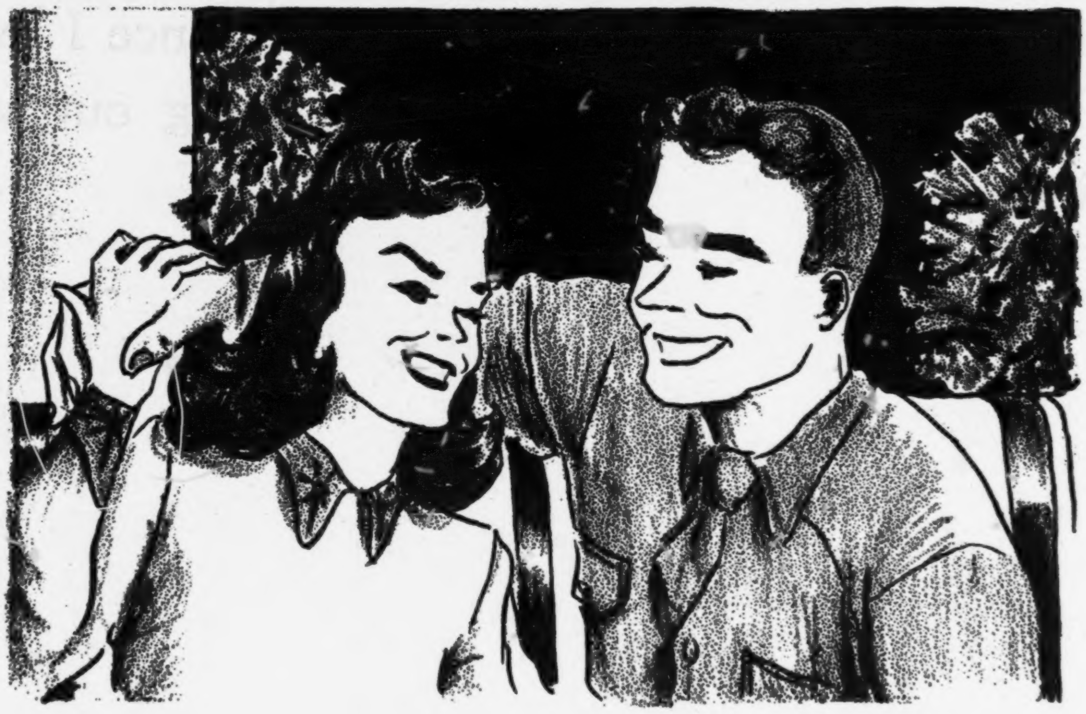
While Mary and Bob were making plans, Pete and Sue talked seriously on the porch. Pete said, "This has been a wonderful week, Sue."

Sue answered, "It has been the best week of my life. I have seen so many interesting things."

Pete asked, "How about the two of us being together? Haven't you liked that?"

"Being with you has been the best of all," Sue answered.

Sue wanted to know if Pete liked the Army as well as he had said in his letters. Pete told her that he liked the Army very much. He did not like being away from Sue.



Pete said, “I want you to wait for me, Sue. If I make good in the Army, we can be together all the time.”

Sue asked, “When will you know how you are going to get along in the Army?”

Pete replied, “I’ve made a good start, Sue. I should know in a year. Will you wait that long?”

Sue answered, “I want to think about it, Pete. There is no one else, now. But I am too young to decide now.”

Pete asked, “Sue, are you going to have dates with anyone else?”

“No, Pete, not unless I write to you about it.”

Pete said to Sue, “That will help me a lot. I had not asked you before. But I did worry about you sometimes, back at camp. Now I will know that you are not going out with other fellows.”

Sue asked, “Pete, will you be going out with other girls?”

Pete answered, “I haven’t had a date since I left Rivertown. I promise you that I will not be going out with any other girls.”

Sue and Pete walked back into the living room. Before Pete and Bob left, they talked about going home to Rivertown. Pete thought that he could get a furlough in four or five months. Bob said he would do his best to arrange a leave at the same time.

Sue said, "Mary is coming to visit me sometime. Maybe she could come when you boys are home."

Pete and Bob kissed the girls goodbye. The Washington trip was almost over.

PART FOUR

A SAILOR AND A SOLDIER VISIT HOME

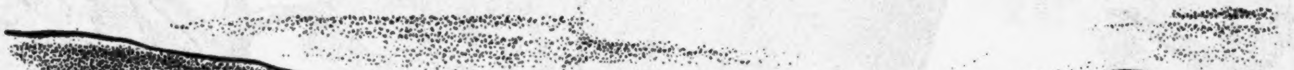
Chapter 33

PETE AND BOB GET AHEAD

Five months had passed since Bob and Pete were in Washington. The time passed rapidly for both of them. Pete had made up his mind to stay in the Army. Bob had decided to spend his life in the Navy. The buddies had worked hard to make good. Now they are getting ahead in the Army and in the Navy.

As he had planned, Pete went into the Infantry. Soon after Pete returned to Camp Allen from Washington, he was sent to Infantry School. Pete liked Infantry School. He became a full-fledged infantryman.

When Infantry School was finished, Pete went on maneuvers. On maneuvers, he practiced what he had learned in Infantry School. To practice war, the men were put into two armies. One was called the Red Army. The other was named the Blue Army. Pete was in the Blue Army. The Blue Army won the maneuvers.

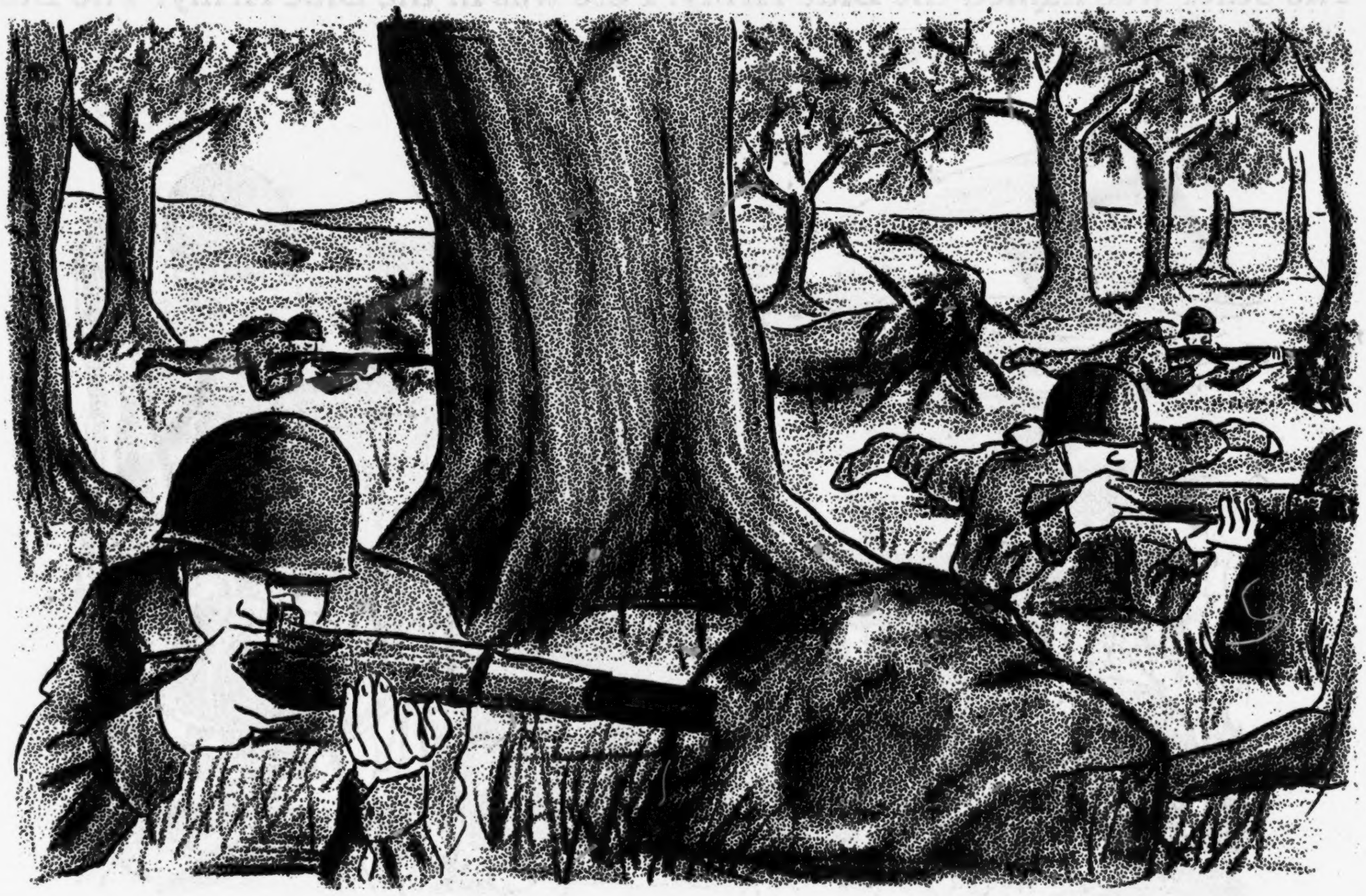


Maneuvers taught Pete a little about what war is like. It rained six days in a row. Pete slept in his wet clothes and ate cold food. Pete did not get sick. He was proud of his physical condition.

Idaho was in the Tank Corps, as he had wanted. He had learned how to drive a tank. Idaho went on the same maneuvers as Pete. Idaho saw Pete only once. Idaho told Pete that he was doing all right. He told Pete all about his tank.

After maneuvers, Pete went back to Camp Allen. Tex was not there. Sergeant Hanna told Pete about Tex. Tex had weak feet. The doctor had decided that Tex should not be in the Army. Two days later, Pete had a letter from Tex. Tex wrote to Pete that he was sorry he had to leave the Army. He was now working in the oil fields.

Pete would miss Tex. He had been a good friend.



Two good things happened to Pete. He was made a corporal. The captain told him, "You are being made a corporal because of your good record. You did well at Infantry School and on maneuvers." That night Pete learned thte second good thing. He was to have a ten-day furlough. The furlough was to start in three weeks' time.

Before he hit the sack, Pete wrote a letter to Bob.

Wednesday

Dear Bob,

Lots of good news! I am now Corporal Brown! Three weeks from today, I start a ten-day furlough. Can you get a leave, as we planned? I surely hope you can. It would be great if Mary could visit Sue at the same time.

Maneuvers were plenty tough, but I guess I can take it! When will you finish Radio School?

Write soon, so we can make plans.

Your buddy,
Pete

Before going to Radio School, Bob had spent two weekends in Washington. Mary and Bob got along fine together. They were writing to each other often.

Bob had made a good choice. Radio School was interesting to him. Learning to take and send code was hard work. It was easy for Bob to learn how to take care of the radio equipment.

In two more weeks, Bob would be finished at Radio School. On Friday Pete's letter came. Bob was glad Pete's plans had worked out. He had asked for a leave when Radio School was finished. Bob would learn tomorrow whether or not his leave had been granted.

Bob was glad that Pete had been made a corporal. He thought that Pete would go far in the Army. He wondered how long it would take Pete to become a sergeant. Bob was doing all right himself. He was now a seaman. Bob looked forward to being a petty officer. His first petty officer rate would be radioman third class.

Bob found out about his leave. He was very, very lucky. On Monday he wrote two letters.

Monday

Darling Mary,

I have good news! My leave has been granted. I shall have eight days starting two weeks from Friday. Pete also has a furlough. He will be home when I get there.

See your boss right away! Try to get a week off. It will be wonderful if you can visit Sue while Pete and I are home.

Your letters have been grand. I read them over and over. It seems so long since we were together. Ten more days and Radio School is over.

Write soon. I'll be waiting to hear your news.

All my love,

Bob

Monday

Dear Pete,

Our plans are working out fine. My leave came through O.K. We are very lucky to be getting home at the same time. I get eight days, starting two weeks from Friday. I ought to get to Rivertown the day after you arrive.

I wrote to Mary tonight. She will come with me, if her boss lets her off. If Mary can come to Rivertown, we shall all have a good time together.

So you are a corporal now! You are getting to be a big shot in the Army. Seriously Pete, I think it is fine. I'm glad you are doing so well.

I'm a seaman, now, myself. Maybe we will amount to something, some day!

It will be good to see you again.

Your buddy,

Bob

The plans of Pete and Bob worked out well. Mary was going to Rivertown, too. Her boss had given her a week off. Bob would go to Washington first. Then Mary and he would go to Rivertown together.

Pete and Bob had written to their parents about their visit. They were glad to be going home. The buddies had not seen their parents since they had left for the Army and Navy.

Chapter 34

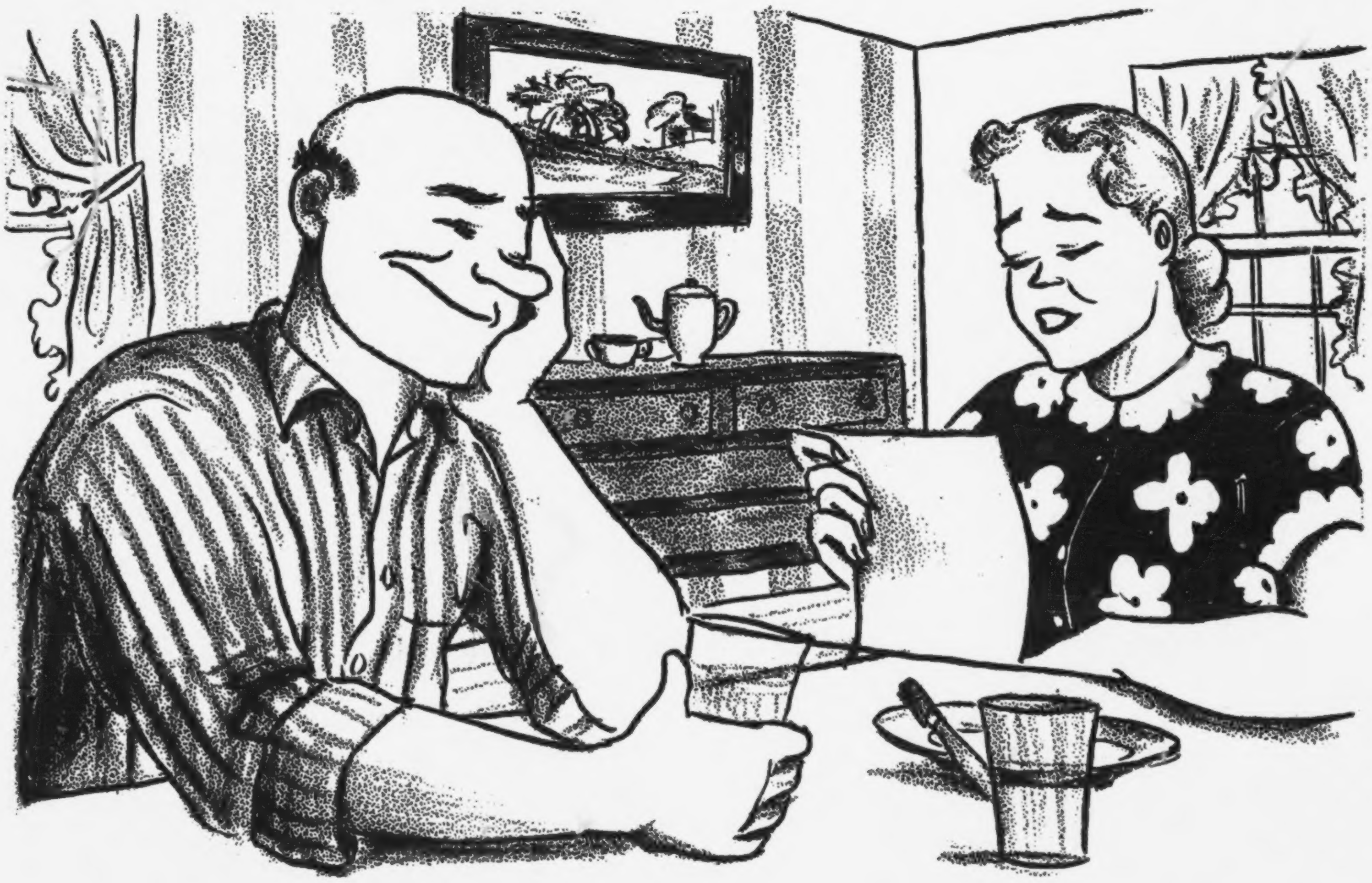
THE HOME FOLKS GET READY FOR A VISIT

Mr. and Mrs. Brown were at the supper table. Mr. Brown was tired and worried. The corn needed rain. Mr. Brown needed a good crop. He had bought some new machinery since Pete left. He still owed money for the new machinery.

Mrs. Brown said, "Dad, we have a letter from Pete." Mr. Brown's face lighted up with pleasure.

"A letter from Pete? That's fine. Read it to me," answered Mr. Brown.

This is the letter that Mrs. Brown read.



Thursday

Dear Mom and Dad,

All my plans are working out fine. I will be home two weeks from tomorrow. I have a ten-day furlough. Mom and Dad, I am very happy to be coming home.

My train arrives in Rivertown at eleven-thirty in the morning. Sue will meet me at the station. We will have lunch in town and then drive out to the farm.

Bob was able to get a leave, too. He will be home at the same time. Isn't that fine? I haven't seen Bob since we were in Washington five months ago. Bob's girl is coming to visit Sue. Bob and Mary will come from Washington together.

Will you have a good corn crop, Dad? The newspapers say you need rain. I hope you have a good rain soon. Mom, don't work too hard getting ready for me.

Your loving son,

Corporal Pete Brown

P.S. Aren't you surprised? I was made a corporal last week!

Pete

Every Saturday Pete's mother and father go to Rivertown. They sell eggs and other things from the farm. They bring fresh vegetables to put in their frozen food locker. Sometimes they bring chickens and meat to put in their frozen food locker.

The Saturday after Pete's letter came, Mr. and Mrs. Brown went to the Rivertown Department Store. Mr. Brown had told his wife, "Mom, I want you to get a new dress. Pete will be proud of you."

Mrs. Brown had answered, "All right, Dad, I will get a new dress if you buy a new shirt and necktie for yourself."

In the department store, the Browns met Sue. Sue was buying some new clothes. She wanted to look her very best for Pete. Mrs. Brown said to Sue, "It looks as though you are getting ready for Pete, too! Dad and I are so happy that Pete is coming home."

Sue answered, "Yes, I am looking forward very much to seeing Pete. I know you and Mr. Brown want to see him."

Mr. Brown said, "Pete wrote that your friend, Mary, is coming, too."

Sue answered, "Yes. Mary is a grand girl. I hope you will like her."

Mrs. Brown told Sue, "We want you and Mary to come to dinner the first Sunday the boys are home. Bob's mother and father are coming, too."

Sue thanked Mrs. Brown. She said that Mary would want to meet Pete's parents.

It did little good for Pete to tell his mother not to work hard. The week before Pete arrived, Mrs. Brown cleaned the farm home. She cooked and baked. She knew Pete would be hungry for her cooking. She planned to have all of Pete's favorite foods.

Sue was busy, also. She helped her mother get ready for Mary. She wanted Pete to have fun on his furlough. There was to be a dance on Saturday night. They would go swimming, also. And Sue remembered that Pete liked picnics. Yes, they would have a great time!

Rivertown has a weekly newspaper. It is called the *Rivertown Weekly News.* The "News" comes out each Friday. All the people who live in Rivertown, and near Rivertown, read the "News." They enjoy most the part of the "News" which tells what their neighbors are doing.

On Monday morning Mrs. Brown telephoned to the office of the *Rivertown Weekly News.* Mrs. Brown said, over the telephone, "I have some news for the paper this week. My son, Pete, is coming home for a visit. He will arrive this coming Friday. He has a ten-day furlough."

Mrs. Brown went on to tell what Pete had been doing. She also told the "News" about Bob's coming home.

Chapter 35

PETE'S FIRST DAY AT HOME

On Friday Sue went to the railroad station early. She was waiting when Pete's train arrived. Sue was very excited. It had been five months since she said "Goodbye" to Pete in Washington. She wondered if he would look the same.

The train was on time. At eleven-thirty it rolled into the station. Pete was the first passenger to leave the train. Sue and Pete ran toward each other. They were a happy couple.

Sue and Pete ate lunch in the Mills Cafe. While they were waiting for their food, Sue gave Pete some bad news. Sue had received a telegram from Mary on Wednesday, two days ago. "Read this, Pete," said Sue, handing Pete a telegram.

Washington, D.C.

Sue Adams
Rivertown, Ohio

Mother ill. Cannot come to Rivertown. Will write you.

Mary Barnes

Pete read the telegram. He said to Sue, "That's too bad. Bob will be disappointed. He is planning to arrive tomorrow. We will not have as much fun, without Mary."

After lunch, Sue and Pete drove to the farm in Sue's car. They knew Mr. and Mrs. Brown would be waiting. As they drove along, Pete looked at the crops. There had been two days of rain early in the week. The corn looked good. Pete saw many changes. The highway had been repaired. Three miles from Pete's home, a new bridge had been built. Two farms had new barns.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown were waiting on the porch, when Sue and Pete drove up. Pete looked older and bigger to his mother and father. His mother looked just the same. Pete thought that his father looked tired.

Pete's mother said, "I'm so glad to see you, Pete. It has been almost a year since you left. Dad and I have missed you."

Pete's father said, "It is good to have you home, son."

Pete told his mother and father how glad he was to see them again. They all sat on the porch and talked. Pete told them about his promotion to corporal. He also told them about his trip home on the train. Sue told Mr. and Mrs. Brown that Mary could not come.

"Pete, there is something in the newspaper about you and Bob," said Mrs. Brown.

"What is in the newspaper about Bob and me?" Pete asked.

Pete's father said, "Last Monday your mother telephoned the newspaper office. She told them you and Bob would be home for a visit. They wanted to know where you were stationed and what you had been doing."

"Who would want to read about me in a newspaper?" asked Pete.

Sue said, "Why, Pete, you have lots of friends who will enjoy reading about you."

Pete thanked his parents for sending the *Rivertown Weekly News* to him at camp. He told them that he always read it.

Mrs. Brown got the newspaper. Pete read about Bob and himself.

Servicemen Visit Home

This week two friends, a soldier and a sailor, will return to Rivertown for a visit. Corporal Pete Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Brown, will visit with his parents for one week.

Corporal Brown is on duty at Camp Allen, New York. He has finished Infantry School. Pete will be remembered as a star athlete at Rivertown High School.

Seaman Bob Jones will visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones. Seaman Jones is taking radio training in the Navy. He is now stationed at Charleston, South Carolina.

After Pete read the newspaper, Sue said it was time for her to go home. Pete walked to the car with her. They agreed to meet at her home after dinner that night.

When Sue had gone, Pete said, "Dad, let's look over the farm." Mr. Brown gladly agreed. He was pleased by Pete's interest in the farm. He had two surprises for Pete.

As they walked toward the barn, Pete asked, "Where is my dog, Brownie?"

Mr. Brown answered, "Well, that will be a surprise for you. Brownie is in the barn."

Pete and his dad walked into the barn. Pete looked for Brownie. "Where is she?" he asked.

Just then he saw Brownie. With her were ten young puppies! Brownie wagged her tail to tell Pete she knew him. Pete patted Brownie and looked at the puppies.

"You will have enough hunting dogs, now," laughed Pete, "Brownie will train them for you."

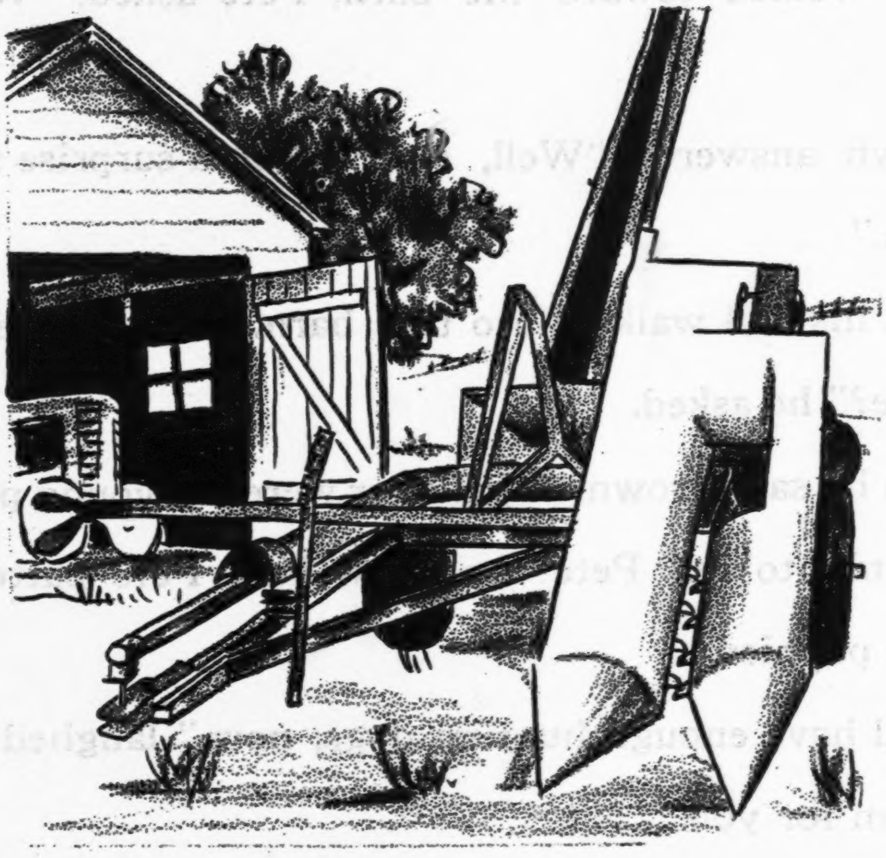
Mr. Brown answered, "With you away from home, I will not keep more than one of the puppies."

As they left the barn, Pete asked, "How have you been getting along with the work, Dad?"

"It was hard when you first left, Pete. But now I am doing fairly well," Mr. Brown answered.

"The crops look fine. How can you get so much done?" asked Pete.

"That is another surprise for you," said Mr. Brown. Pete's dad told him that he was learning to use machinery. He showed Pete a new corn picker and a new combine.



Mr. Brown said, "With good equipment I can manage by myself. These machines are not paid for yet. But this crop will help a lot."

Pete and his father walked through the fields and looked at the crop. The corn would be ready to pick in about two weeks. Mrs. Brown called Pete to look at her garden. Many of the flowers were still in bloom.

Pete enjoyed seeing the farm again. He thought of the years he had spent there, the hard work, and the fun.

Soon dinner was ready. Mrs. Brown had cooked Pete's favorite dish—succotash.

"Fresh lima beans, this late in the season?" asked Pete.

"These beans were picked six weeks ago," smiled Mrs. Brown. "They have been in our frozen food locker."

Pete enjoyed the meal. When dinner was over, he said, "Mom, Army chow is good, but it is not like your cooking! That succotash was perfect."

Pete talked with his mother after dinner. He dried the dishes as they talked. When the dishes were finished, Mrs. Brown said, "Pete, you had better get dressed for your date. It is getting late."

Pete shined his shoes and put on a clean uniform. He had been waiting for this night for a long time. It was just eight o'clock when he drove away from the farm.

Chapter 36

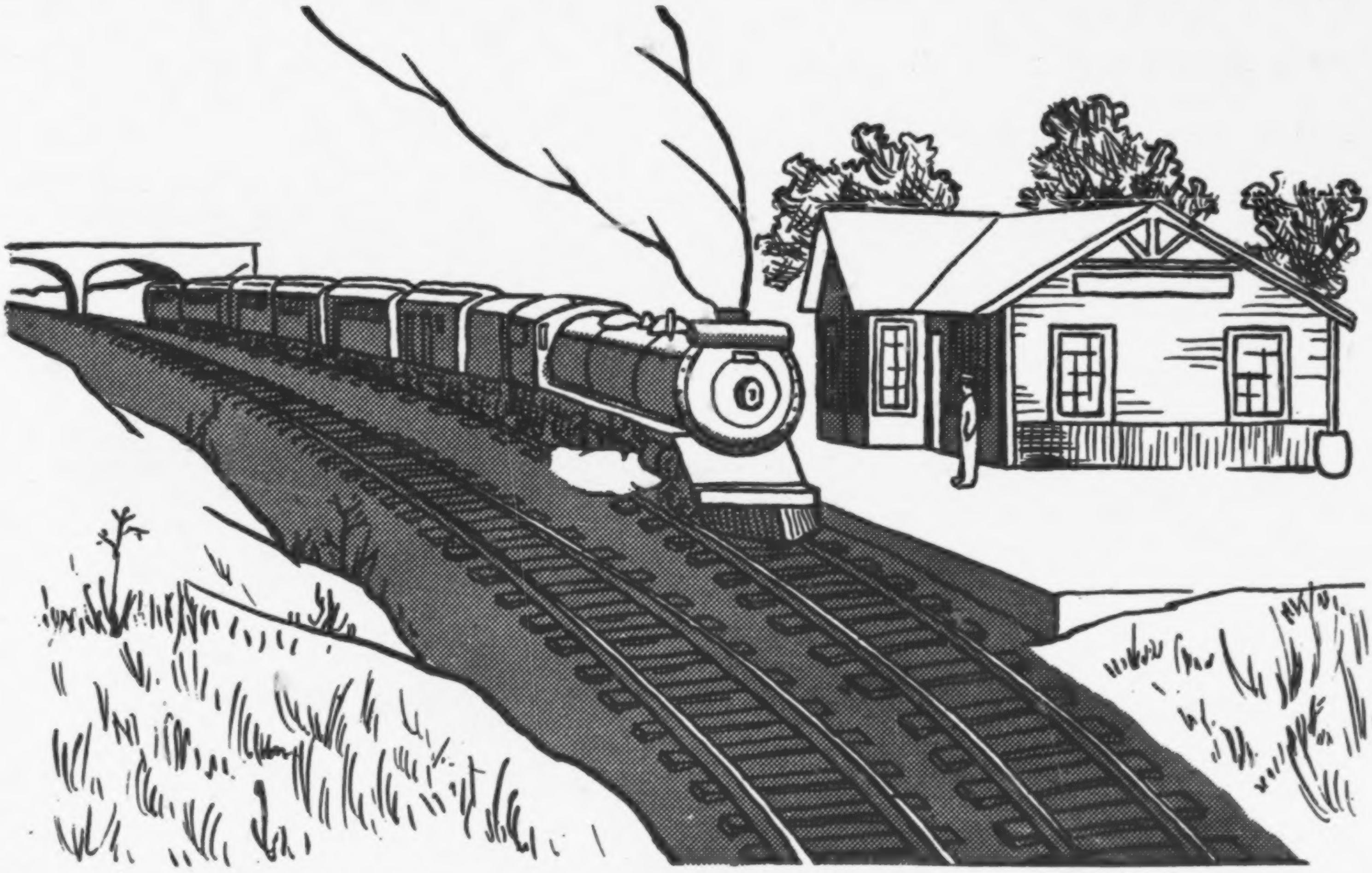
BOB ARRIVES IN RIVERTOWN

No telegram came from Bob. Pete knew that Bob would be on the two o'clock train, as he had planned. Since Mary was not coming, Sue thought she would not go to the station. Pete asked her to go along with him.

Pete said, "Bob is going to be unhappy because Mary cannot come. We had better both be at the station to cheer him up."

Sue answered, "I will be glad to meet Bob with you. I like to be downtown on Saturday afternoon, anyhow. You can see everybody."

Sue and Pete were waiting when the two o'clock train arrived. As the train came to a stop, Sue said. "Oh, how I wish Mary were coming too!"



Passengers began getting off the train. Pete and Sue looked for a blue uniform. Where was Sailor Bob? Almost all of the passengers had left the train. Could it be that Bob had not come?

Pete said, "Maybe Bob did decide to stay in Washington."

"Look!" cried Sue. "There is Mary."

Mary ran toward Sue. Bob followed, carrying the bags. He had a broad smile on his face.

Sue asked, "Mary, how did it happen that you could come?"

Mary answered, "Mother became much better. Then my married sister came to stay. They both said that I should not give up my trip."

Bob added, "I was surely glad to get the news that Mary could come."

The two couples went to Pete's car. They drove around Rivertown for a while. Sue wanted Mary to see Rivertown. Pete wanted to tell Bob some of the plans for the week. Mary and Bob thought the plans were just right. The dance that night sounded good.

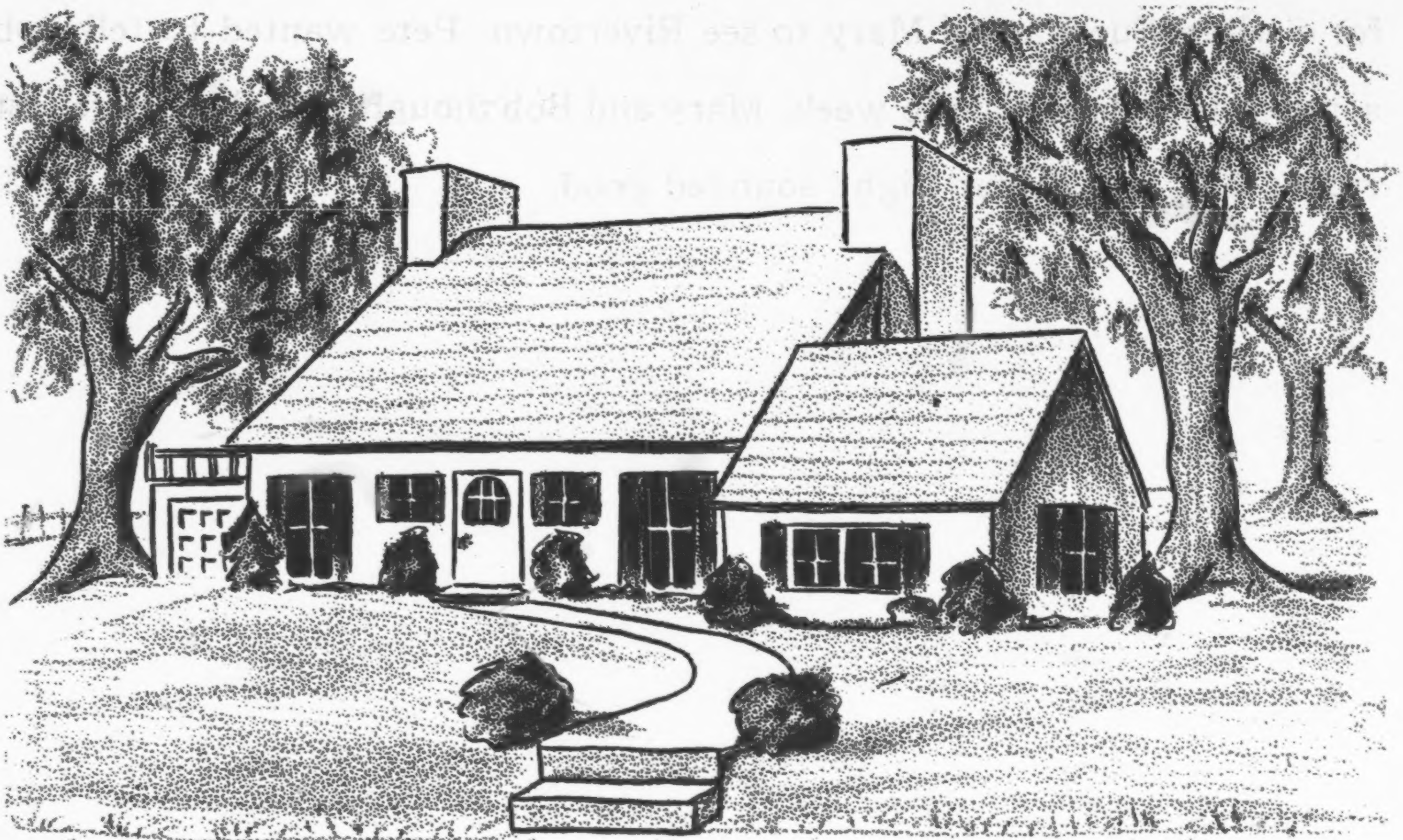
After riding around for about an hour, Bob said, "I'm sorry to break this up, but I do want to see my folks."

Sue said, "Mother will be angry if we don't get home soon. She doesn't know Mary is here."

Pete took Bob home first. Bob wanted Mary to meet his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Jones were very glad to meet Mary. Mrs. Jones said, "You look just like your pictures. Bob has told us so much about you. We feel as though we know you."

After visiting with Bob's parents, Pete drove the girls to the Adams home. Mrs. Adams was surprised and pleased that Mary had come. Pete reminded the girls that he and Bob would come for them at nine o'clock that night.

"Be all ready and look your best. Bob and I will be proud of you. You will be the best looking girls at the dance," said Pete, as he left to go to the car.



It was five o'clock when Pete left Sue and Mary. Pete arrived home just in time for dinner. He told his mother and father about the surprise. Mrs. Brown was very pleased that Mary had come. She had always thought a great deal of Bob. She wanted to see the girl whom Bob liked so well.

"I am glad she will be with us for dinner tomorrow," said Mrs. Brown. "We shall have plenty of food."

Mr. Brown had been waiting for a chance to talk. "Pete," he said, "we have a new calf. She is a beauty."

Pete answered, "That is great, Dad. Beef is worth lots of money these days."

Pete tried to show interest in the new calf, but he was really thinking about the coming dance.

At nine o'clock that night, Pete and Bob drove up in front of the Adams house. They were dressed in their best uniforms. The khaki and blue looked very smart. The girls were not quite ready. Mrs. Adams talked with the men until the girls appeared.

The dance was given by the Rivertown Post of the American Legion. The veterans were glad to have the sailor and soldier come to their dance. The dance band was good, but, as Pete said, it was not like Bob Crosby!

Pete and Bob saw many of their old friends. Mary looked very beautiful. Bob was proud to have his friends meet her. Sue knew almost everyone at the dance. She was happy to be seen with Pete. He did look good in his uniform.

By midnight the two couples had danced enough. Bob suggested that they go for a ride. All agreed that it was a good idea. Pete said, "Let's drive out to Joe's Place and get some coffee and hamburgers."

They had driven three miles out of Rivertown. Suddenly Pete slammed on the brakes. The car stopped a short distance from a bridge. "There is trouble here! A car just went off the bridge into the river," yelled Pete, jumping from the car.

Bob was right behind Pete. They were both running toward the bridge. The headlights showed the broken railing, where the car had gone off the bridge.

Pete reached the broken railing. He heard cries from the water. Pete yelled, "Sue, drive the car up so we can see the water by the headlights." Bob and Pete quickly pulled off their shoes and blouses. Into the water, they dived.

The headlights showed two people struggling in the water. Bob swam toward one and Pete went after the other one. After a hard struggle, they reached the shore with the victims of the accident.

Sue knew the unfortunate people. They were a couple from Rivertown. The woman was stunned but breathing. The man could talk, but was badly hurt. He said, "I had a tire blow out on the bridge. The car went through the railing. Thank God, you fellows came along when you did."

By this time a police car had arrived. The unlucky couple were taken to Rivertown to the hospital.

Bob and Pete were wet and cold. They turned the car around and headed for home. Sue and Mary were very, very proud of Pete and Bob. The sailor's first day at home had been a busy one.

Chapter 37

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

"Pete, what in the world were you doing last night?" called Mrs. Brown. She had discovered Pete's wet uniform on a kitchen chair.

Pete came downstairs, rubbing the sleep from his eyes. He told his parents about the midnight swim. "The name of the couple in the accident is Carp. They were taken to the Rivertown Hospital," Pete explained.

"Could that be Bill Carp?" Mr. Brown asked his wife.

I will telephone the hospital and find out. We want to know how they are getting along anyway," Mrs. Brown answered.

At the hospital she was told that the accident victims were Bill Carp and his wife. Both were doing well.

Turning from the telephone, Mrs. Brown said, "I am thankful that you and Bob did not get hurt. I will try to clean and press your good uniform."

Mr. Brown said, "Son, a year ago you could not have saved those people. You could not swim well enough then."

Pete replied, "Oh, I didn't do very much. How about some pancakes for breakfast, Mom?"

After breakfast Mrs. Brown put a large pork roast in the oven. Then they all got ready for church. Pete did not want to miss church on his first Sunday at home. At Camp Allen he had gone to church every Sunday. Pete enjoyed the church services and saw many of his friends.

Mrs. Brown was very busy with the dinner when they returned from church. Mr. Brown and Pete were busy also. They were freezing the homemade ice cream. Pete turned the freezer while Mr. Brown added ice and salt.

At twelve o'clock sharp, Bob and Mr. and Mrs. Jones arrived. A few minutes later, Sue and Mary drove up. The ladies went to the kitchen to help Mrs. Brown with the dinner. The men sat on the porch and talked.

Soon Mrs. Brown called the men to dinner. The large table was loaded with good food.

Bob smiled at Mrs. Brown, "I wouldn't let Mom give me much breakfast. I wanted to be hungry for your dinner."

Mary said, "Your table is beautiful, Mrs. Brown." She admired the white tablecloth, the dishes, and the flowers.

Mrs. Brown had made place cards for each person. On the back of the place cards at Pete and Bob's places, she had written the menu. She wanted them to remember this dinner at home. This is what she had written on the cards:

MENU

Sunday Dinner at the Browns

Soup:	Cream of tomato
Meat:	Roast pork
	Fried chicken
Vegetables:	Mashed potatoes and gravy
	Carrots and peas
	Candied sweet potatoes
	Beets
Salad:	Cole slaw
Dessert:	Ice cream
	Chocolate layer cake

Everyone enjoyed the good dinner. After they finished eating, they all went to the porch to talk. Mr. and Mrs. Brown wanted to hear about Bob's Navy experiences. Mr. and Mrs. Jones asked Pete about the Army. The buddies shared their experiences.

Finally, Mr. Brown said to Bob, "You will soon know enough about radio to go in business for yourself. You could open a radio store here in Rivertown."

Bob answered, "Well, I've been talking with the folks about it. I have decided to make a career of the Navy. Dad thinks it is a good idea and Mom has agreed." Bob smiled at his mother.

"As Bob knows," said Pete, "I am going to stay in the Army. I am getting along very well, and it looks like a good deal for me."

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Brown, "What do you think of Pete's being away from home?"

Mr. Brown answered, "We miss Pete, but I have learned to run the farm without his help. Mother and I want Pete to live his own life."

Late in the afternoon, Mr. Brown said to Mr. Jones, "I want to show you my new machinery."

Mary said, "May I go along? This is the first time I have been on a real farm."

Mr. Brown took them to the barn and showed them the new corn picker and the combine. He explained how the machinery worked.

Pete showed Brownie's new puppies to Mary. Then Mary called Sue to see the puppies. Both girls thought they were beautiful little dogs. Mr. Brown told Mary and Sue that they could each have a puppy. Sue then went back to the kitchen. She was helping Pete's mother and Mrs. Jones with the dishes. Mary walked around the farm with the men.

That night the two couples went for an automobile ride. It was a clear, moonlight night. They rode for a long time. They talked and sang. After a while Pete pulled off the road and stopped the car. They were near the bank of the river. It was at this spot, one year before, that Pete had told Sue he was going to join the Army.

Mary and Bob left the car. They walked over to the bank of the river and sat under a tree. They were quiet for a while.

Finally, Bob said, "Mary, we have known each other long enough to have a serious talk. I like you better than any other girl I have ever known. Since my second trip to Washington, I have not dated any other girls."

Mary answered, "I think a lot of you, Bob."

Bob asked, "Do you think enough of me not to have dates with anyone else?"

Mary replied, "That is easy, Bob. I don't want dates with anyone but you."

Mary's answer made Bob very happy.

In the meantime, Sue and Pete sat in the car talking. Pete said, "Sue. I think I have a good chance of being made a sergeant within a year. Two people can live on a sergeant's pay. Have you been thinking about the question I asked you in Washington? Are you ready to give me an answer, now?"

Sue said nothing, for a minute. Then she answered, "Oh, Pete! I am sure now, that I want to marry you. I will wait for you. Let's get married as soon as we can."

Pete was too happy to say anything. He took Sue in his arms and kissed her.

Much later, a happy soldier and sailor drove back to Rivertown.

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